SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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Runner tribute

Harriers chief in praise for star athlete Andy Holden

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Well bread

Warburtons boss gets a slice of the action at base

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Baggies out

Players lose their chance to emulate past heroes

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COUNCIL AGREES BT DEAL WIND DOWN

by Alex Homer

SANDWELL council has agreed latest steps for the termination of a £300 million contract with BT which will lead to 'inevitable' job losses.

The authority is to leave its planned 15-year partnership with BT called Transform Sandwell nine years early after bosses said they were unhappy with the service.

Around 300 employees are due to return to work for the council but council leader Darren Cooper has said it was 'inevitable' some posts would be shed in the move.

The deal was signed in 2007, and saw the council pay £15 million a year to BT for the management of services including finance, customer contact and communication.

But last July the authority told the telecommunications giant it wanted to bring its contract to an end, unless BT addressed issues raised by the council within 30 days.

The disagreement could not be resolved and both parties have begun to draw up an exit plan to end their contract by March.

On Tuesday, Sandwell's full council agreed the steps to be taken to realign council staff after it stops working with BT – a process expected to take around 12 months. It is forecast that the return of Transform Sandwell will see efficiency savings of approximately £2.5m in the 2015/16 financial year.

Forecast

It has now been approved that the deputy chief of the council, John Garrett, will also lead a root-and-branch review of the structure, management, operation and future development of the three central support directorates of the council, which it is forecast will increase the annual saving forecast to be around £4.5m from April 2016 onwards.

The latest steps in ending the contract were moved by elected members without discussion. The council's ruling cabinet had decided to bring the BT contract to an end last year because it now has fewer workers due to redundancies prompted by government cuts.

The authority wanted to pay BT less to reflect the reduced volume of work. It has also been unhappy with BT's service and began dispute proceedings last September. Whether the council will face any one-off costs to end the contract is not yet clear.

Despite setting in motion the end of the contract, the council has had to ask BT to continue to overhaul its computer system.

Drugs and burglary are top of concerns

DRUG dealing, burglary and groups of teenagers loitering are the top crime concerns for residents in Sandwell, according to a new survey.

More than 289 people responded to a questionnaire asking people what they would like to see treated as a main policing priority in their area.

The results will be used to create a Police and Crime Plan for the borough.

Police have been attending meetings around the area to listen to residents' concerns and find out what they want tackled most.

The new plan is due to be introduced by April as part of a change in the way the force is run since the introduction of police and crime commissioners.

The results of the Sandwell consultation were revealed in a report due to be presented to members of Sandwell Council's neighbourhood scrutiny board tomorrow.

Councillor Syeda Khatun MBE, chairman of the Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board said: "We are looking at people's safety and how people feel and discussing it with local officers."

It also revealed that the most common issue discussed at council run Neighbourhood Forums where fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and vehicle nuisance.

Accused in court over club theft

A MAN has been charged after a social club which had been partly destroyed in a lorry crash was then broken into.

Ian Roberts has been charged with stealing £39.70 from the Royal British Legion in Wednesbury.

It is alleged Roberts, 39 and from Kendrick Street in Wednesbury, broke into the club in the days after it was hit by a lorry in a smash which killed the driver, 55-year-old Henryk Jackowski.

Members at the Church hill club arrived a week after the smash to find two games machines had been forced open and cash had been stolen.

Club members said the gaming machines were a 'big earner' for the venue.

The group had already begun to make repairs to their clubhouse just a week after the crash.

A studded wall put up in the days following the accident to make the club secure and parts of a hallway where the machines were located were also damaged in the incident.

Roberts appeared at Sandwell Magistrates' Court on Friday, and has been bailed to reappear at the same court on January 27.

● Shock – See Page 17

Wakes move with revamp

A CREMATORIUM in the Black Country is to undergo a £388,000 revamp, which will give families the chance to hold wakes at the site following funerals, under plans submitted to council bosses.

It would mean groups of up to 100 could be catered for at the £3.25 million Sandwell Valley Crematorium in West Bromwich.

A planning application for the scheme, which would see two new jobs created as well as an extra 22 parking spaces at the site in Newton Road, has now been lodged with the authority. The site is being expanded.

Police pair paws for blessing

Damian Smart and Lindsay Whitehouse with Rev John Butcher and Shadow and Nina

THERE was no question over who were two of the most important guests at a special blessing for dog handlers Damian Smart and Lindsay Whitehouse. The happy couple said their two police dogs were such an important part of their lives that they wanted them to get involved with their wedding, and organised a blessing that they could attend.

Pc Smart has been with West Midlands Police's dog unit for more than a decade and works from Wednesbury police station, while his new wife, who handles specialist sniffer dogs alongside German shepherd all-rounders, joined the team in 2007 and is based in Aston.

He said: "Because dogs play such a big part in our lives and that it's the first time two handlers have tied the knot we wanted to get them involved. So we arranged a special wedding blessing with a police chaplain. Shadow and Nina were impeccably behaved – the perfect guests."

The couple on their big day

Call made on payday loan ads to be axed

ALL TELEVISION adverts for payday loan companies should be banned – that was the view of one senior figure at Sandwell Council as its members unanimously approved calls for stronger regulation of such lenders.

The authority endorsed new proposals to regulate payday lenders from the Financial Conduct Authority, but said they did not go far enough.

At a full council meeting, members unanimously voted to back the so-called Charter to Stop the Payday Loan Rip-Off and approved sending the FCA a motion calling on it to go further to kerb such firms.

Members said current proposals would not stop the loan companies from drip-feeding new loans to people who already had payday loan debts. Councillor Peter Hughes' motion said the council wanted to stop people being hit with escalating penalty fees.

Councillor Roger Horton, who spoke after the motion was presented, said: "We ought to try and push for bans for these payday loan companies at all times as we did for cigarettes."

The motion came after the council blocked payday loan websites on all of its library computers. The council has urged residents to back the charter by visiting **www.change.org/paydayloancharter**

Albion chief funeral date

THE FUNERAL of West Bromwich Albion's Club President John Silk will take place next week.

Former chairman Mr Silk, who was Club President for just over 10 years, died after a short illness on New Year's Eve aged 89.

The club have announced his funeral will take place on January 15 at 11am at All Saints Church, All Saints Way, West Bromwich. A minute's applause was held before kick-off at West Brom's New Year's Day win over Newcastle in honour of the founder of Silks Solicitors.

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Councils' injunction hope on cruising

A HIGH Court injunction is being sought by councils across the West Midlands to crack down on the menace of car cruising across the region.

Legal action is being sought to tackle the problem of boy racers tearing through the streets at unofficial events – often breaching speed limits and putting lives at risk. Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley are all bidding for legal powers which would see anyone breaching the injunction get fined or jailed for two years. Wolverhampton City Council is leading the injunction fight.

Gurdip Thandi, spokesman for the city council, said: "We continue to work with our partners in the Black Country to see what steps can be taken to tackle what is a region-wide issue of car cruising.

"As part of this, we are now seeking cabinet approval to apply to the High Court for an injunction.

"If granted, the councils would have the power to take anyone suspected of breaching the injunction back to court and anyone found in breach of the injunction would be liable to fines or up to two years' imprisonment."

He said it was hoped an injunction would dissuade people from taking part in car cruising. "As the proposed injunction is still subject to legal proceedings, we are unable to go into any further detail at this stage," he added.

"We, our Black Country partners and the police remain committed to providing safer communities and will not tolerate anti-social behaviour."

It comes after Staffordshire Police acquired an injunction to stop boy racers in parts of Cannock.

Jobs boost hope as land and base to be sold off

OFFICES and land are to be sold off to pave the way for a development that could create hundreds of jobs.

Sandwell Council is to sell off the Training and Development Centre in Oldbury along with a portion of land, which will be used for industrial development.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Mahboob Hussain said it was hoped the site – measuring around 10 acres in total – would lead to the creation of hundreds of industrial jobs.

Most of the staff based at the centre in Popes Lane have already been moved and Councillor Hussain said it was hoped it was hoped remaining staff would be moved within weeks. It is the latest building the cash-strapped authority is selling off as it has to make savings of £100 million by 2017 due to Government cuts.

Industrial

Councillor Hussain, the borough's cabinet member for asset management and land disposal, said: "The premises on Popes Lane used to be offices where we had the training and development centre, we are going to be moving them out and we will be turning that into industrial [land]. We are going to be selling it and turning it into industrial, we will be selling it off and demolishing it very soon."

The site is less than two miles from junction two of the M5 motorway in Oldbury which Councillor Hussain would make it an attractive site to develop.

He added: "Because of the motorway network it is quite a popular area and we feel it will create hundreds and hundreds of jobs. We need to get a balance, we are building a lot of houses across Sandwell especially in places across Smethwick and we need to create commercial places for places to create jobs."

Company in award ambition

THE largest independent lubricants company in the UK is hoping to land a prestigious national award.

Wednesbury-based Exol Lubricants, which has invested £2 million into redeveloping its head office and production site in the town, has been nominated for the Supplier of the Year gong in the Car and Accessory Trader magazine 2014 awards.

The oil blending company is one of six companies from across the country to be nominated, and it is now calling on Black Country residents to help it to win.

Exol sales director Steve Dunn said: "To be the only oil company nominated for supplier of year in a leading trade magazine's awards is a fantastic achievement. To win this prestigious award, we need help from the people of Wednesbury and West Midlands to go online and cast their vote. Winning this award will further boost our business and raise the profile of Exol's activity in the West Midlands."

The company was also shortlisted for a number of awards in 2013, but is hoping to go one further by winning this award. To vote, see **www.catmag.co.uk/cat-awards-2014**.

Clean-up call over rubbish

Councillor Paul Moore next to the huge amount of rubbish near Ridgacre Branch Canal

A CLEAN-UP is being demanded at a Black Country canal which is being blighted by litter and anti-social behaviour.

Rubbish is strewn along the towpath at the stretch of the Ridgacre Branch Canal, close to Denbigh Crescent in West Bromwich, which is popular with cyclists and dog walkers.

Sandwell councillor Paul Moore said he has been inundated with complaints from residents and he is now calling on the Canal and River Trust to clean up the site.

Councillor Moore, who represents the Hateley Heath ward, said the site was strewn with litter, drinks cans and beer bottles.

"It is covered in rubbish," he said: "There is a concrete bin which is concreted into the ground which means that the bin cannot be emptied so it is just an eyesore.

"It is just becoming a complete magnet for anti-social behaviour.

"I have had quite a few people complain to me that live on that stretch – about 25 houses back on to that bit of the canal."

Fire safety awareness call made

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to be more fire safety aware after a recent campaign in Sandwell.

A week of activities was held to raise fire safety awareness among council tenants living in the borough's 55 high-rise blocks.

More than 3,000 residents received a copy of fire safety for your high-rise flat as part of the special high-rise fire safety week, which saw Sandwell Council join forces with West Midlands Fire Service to deliver the campaign.

The booklet gives preventative measures which residents can take to stop fires starting and other potentially life-saving advice such as regularly testing smoke alarms and reporting fire hazards to the council immediately.

Station commander David Newman, of West Midlands Fire Service, said: "We're here to make the West Midlands safer and we're pleased to be working with Sandwell Council on this important safety initiative."

Working in partnership with the fire service, WMFS, Sandwell Council has already trained 130 housing officers.

Patrols for centre rise

HEIGHTENED police patrols will be maintained around a shopping centre which has become a lure for nuisance youths and drug users.

The West Cross shopping centre in Smethwick has been the scene of youths behaving in an anti-social way and drug taking in recent months. Many of the reports were received by police between 3pm and 1am.

Officers say neighbouring streets have also been the subject of calls to officers, including graffiti problems, criminal damage and domestic violence.

A&E project for winter is started

A £100,000 pilot project to try to alleviate traditional pressures on A&E over winter has begun.

An acute assessment unit has opened at Rowley Regis Hospital to help reduce demand on Sandwell and City hospitals. It is expected it will run for around 12 weeks. In November, it was revealed 50 new beds would be opened up in Sandwell and City hospitals.

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Closures begin for M6 work

WEEKS of overnight closures on the M6 started on Tuesday as part of a multi-million pound project to open up the hard shoulder.

Stretches of the motorway will be closed overnight between junction five, for Castle Bromwich and junction eight, for the M5.

Work will run until February 28, while overhead gantry equipment is installed and a new road surface is laid.

From today, Thursday, the southbound section between junction seven for Great Barr to junction six will be shut between 10pm and 5.30am.

On Friday the northbound stretch between junctions six and seven will be closed along with the southbound junctions between eight and seven between 10pm and 8am.

One lane will also be closed between junctions seven and eight on the northbound stretch.

On Saturday junctions six to seven, northbound will be closed along with southbound junctions seven to six, also between 10pm and 8am.

Green light over office

APPROVAL has been given to sell off a council office block. Sandwell Council wants to sell off Dartmouth House in Sandwell Road, West Bromwich.

The building used to be occupied by Sandwell Homes staff who have since been relocated to Sandwell Council House in Oldbury and offices in Roway Lane in the town under a revamp of accommodation.

In a report, Councillor Mahboob Hussain, states that the two main floors are currently being temporarily occupied by Community Care and Sandwell Inspired Partnership Services, both of which will be relocated.

Reminder on meet venue

A RETIREMENT group is reminding current and prospective members it has changed its meeting place this year.

Sandwell's University of the Third Age holds its meetings on the second Monday of each month, starting at 2pm. The group is reminding members it is moving to the Wesley Community Centre, New Street, Hill Top, West Bromwich, from this month.

Matt makes it with a job per week for 2013

Matt Frost, seen at Villa Park

STARTING a new job can be a daunting experience. So when 30-year-old Matt Frost set himself a New Year resolution to do a different job a week throughout 2013 it seemed like a bold task.

Now he has achieved just that, completing 52 different jobs in 52 weeks including PA to TV's Philip Schofield and helping people stay warm this winter in his home county of Cornwall.

During the year he took on an ever-changing journey which has taken him from his first job as a photography assistant to being a zombie zone controller.

He played out many fans' dream by going behind the scenes to become groundsman for Aston Villa for a week.

During his time at Villa Park he helped prepare the pitch ahead of their match against Everton in October.

He also got to see the hawk used by grounds staff to clear pigeons from under the roofs on the stands.

Matt also visited Birmingham to spend time as an advertising creative for the McCann advertising agency. Another of his jobs was learning about the work of an MP with West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson. He spent the week helping him on constituency business, visiting meetings with party members and even sitting in during Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons.

The idea to try different jobs came about after a life-changing accident, while working as a retail manager at a shop in London in 2012.

He said: "I just thought you only get one chance to do something like this."

Throughout Matt's year-long journey, any money paid by his employers was donated to The Prince's Trust with the aim to prove that in a time of economic recovery it's still possible to achieve happiness in the workplace, and provide inspiration for unemployed people.

Pneumonia claimed life of student days after GP visit

A TALENTED art student died from pneumonia less than 36 hours after a doctor sent her home with antibiotics for a chest infection.

Evelyn Purchase, aged 20, was found dead by her mother at their home in Butchers Lane, Cradley. She had been feeling unwell for more than three months having previously been diagnosed with sinusitis by a GP in January and had been given two courses of antibiotics.

After her condition failed to improve, her concerned mother Tara took her to Dudley's Holly Hall walk-in centre at around 10pm on April 4 last year.

She had stopped eating a week before her death and found herself even too weak to continue her passion to draw. She was diagnosed with a respiratory tract infection and given antibiotics and an antidepressant citalopram.

On April 6, Mrs Purchase returned home from a trip to London to find her daughter lying on the bed unconscious with the house phone in her hand. She attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but nothing could be done to save her daughter.

At the inquest on Monday, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain raised concerns over the care she had received at the walk-in centre, saying an assessment of Evelyn had been 'less than optimal'.

Mr Balmain added: "It is clear that Evelyn died from a natural event despite her being so young."

Dr Mahmud Ahmed prescribed strong antibiotics – but Mr Balmain questioned why he had not looked into why she had not responded to two previous courses.

The inquest was told Dr Ahmed also gave Evelyn the anti-depressant citalopram as he believed she needed a 'lift' after being told she had lost her appetite.

Infection – Evelyn Purchase

But her mother Mrs Purchase told the hearing that she was concerned her daughter did not have a mental health examination by Dr Ahmed before he prescribed the drug.

Mr Balmain gave a short narrative verdict, saying: "I have no written evidence that simple things like a pulse rate or respiratory rate was recorded. Dr Ahmed said these were checked. But I would expect there to be a note of it."

Dr Ahmed, giving evidence said he had not believed her chest infection was more serious.

Following the inquest Mrs Purchase said the family was exploring the options available to them for taking legal action. She said: "Evelyn was such a cute girl and she had her whole life ahead of her."Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group was unavailable for comment.

Harriers chief in tribute to Andy, 65

TRIBUTES have been made this week to long-serving member of Tipton Harriers, Andy Holden who died at the weekend, hailed as one of its 'truly great characters'.

Club president Ron Bentley described Mr Holden, as a personal friend and said he will be 'missed by thousands'. He was aged 65.

Mr Bentley said Mr Holden, who had four children and leaves behind wife Paula, was 'the greatest club man Tipton has ever seen'. As a young man, in Leyland, Mr Holden was a member of Preston AC.

He won the National Junior Cross Country Championship in 1969 and was a multiple Great Britain international during the 1970s and early 1980s.

He competed at the Commonwealth Games in 1970, European Championships in 1971 and the Olympics in 1972. He won gold with England teams during the 1970s at the World Cross Country Championships.

Mr Holden went to University in Birmingham in 1968 where he studied dentistry.

He qualified as a dentist and worked at a number of practices around the Birmingham and Black Country area.

Running legend and Olympic competitor Andy Holden in action for Tipton in 1978

NEWS in brief

MP in apology call over miners

THE Government should apologise after 'secret' plans to shut 75 coal pits during the 1984 miners' strike were revealed, West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson says.

Mr Watson made the demand following revelations made public under the 30-year rule, which suggest that miners' leader Arthur Scargill may have been right to have claimed there was a secret 'hit list' of dozens of pits.

The Government, led at the time by Margaret Thatcher, said just 20 would close. But one of the documents now in the National Archives suggests that the Government wanted to close 75 pits and axe 64,000 jobs.

Word of mouth joy for company

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society's annual branch customer service survey saw 98 per cent of those who responded saying they would recommend it to a friend.

Also 96 per cent rated the quality of service offered by the Tipton-headquartered society as excellent or very good.

The Tipton's range of savings and mortgage products was rated excellent or very good by 93 per cent.

Jason Breeze, the Tipton's marketing controller, said: "To receive such positive feedback from our members is great news."

Badminton fans' coaching boost

BADMINTON coaching for young people is being launched in Smethwick.

People aged between 14 and 25 will be able to learn the skills of the game and take part competitively at Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre from tomorrow.

Sessions will run every Saturday from 11am to 1pm, and each one costs £1.50 per person. For more information, contact Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre on 0300 012 0121.

Housing plan for pub site agreed

THE site of a vandal-hit former pub will be turned into houses after council planning chiefs backed the scheme.

The Churchfield Tavern, in Little Lane, West Bromwich, will be transformed into five three-bed bungalows and a terraced block of three three-bedroom homes.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

USEFUL statistics. During the whole of 2013 in a UK populated by 60 million people, only three people per day, on average, managed to lock themselves in lavatories. Curiously reassuring, isn't it?

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TIP for 2014. Don't get too excited over reports that Britain will have the biggest economy in Europe within 15 years, as some pundits are predicting. It is perfectly possible to live in a truly massive economy and still be very, very poor. Ask anyone in China.

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THIS year marks the beginning of the commemoration of the First World War. Prepare for a creeping barrage of commemoration, comment and endless re-examination. But I guarantee nothing you see in 2014 will capture the black humour of the Tommies of 1914-18 better than John Jackson's tale of being buried alive by German shells. It's in his memoir, Private 12768, which was written in 1926 and published 80 years later. Jackson describes how the shells came ever closer until two dugouts full of British soldiers were obliterated by direct hits. Miraculously, all the Tommies survived and dug themselves out. As he puts it: "What lucky lads we were. Fourteen buried and all alive and kicking at the end of the funeral."

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JACKSON'S words reminded me of my grandfather's war diary for 1919. He was with the Army of Occupation in Germany and had been gassed a few months earlier. A sudden dose of pneumonia almost killed him. Or as he recorded dryly: "That was when I nearly became a German landowner."

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WHILE it's good to see First World War commemorative coins being produced by the Royal Mint, what on earth have they done to Lord Kitchener? The feature everyone noticed, apart from Kitchener's moustache, was his fierce squint. On the coin his eyes stare straight ahead, ocularly corrected for posterity. Kitchener without a squint is like Cromwell without the warts.

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AND a special New Year wassail to Ruth Goodman, presenter of Tudor Monastery Farm (BBC2) a series which recreates rural life as it was in the 1500s, warts, warlocks and all. One moment they're all merrily carolling and the next (I bet this scene brought complaints) they're carving and twisting the head off a slaughtered pig. This is history in the raw, so authentic you can almost smell it. Goodman must be the only female presenter on television to face the cameras without even a dash of make-up. What a pro.

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ONE New Year's resolution I shall try to follow: Think more positively about food banks. My initial reaction in 2013 was that there was a political agenda at work. How better to embarrass the Government than to set up hundreds of food banks and arrange photo-opportunities of hungry Brits queuing for their daily bread? It still strikes me as a rather American solution, designed to slap a sticking plaster over the problem than to tackle some of the social evils causing poverty – 24-hour boozing, online gambling and payday loans, for a start. But if kind people are prepared to donate food for the poor, and if charities are prepared to hand it out and if other people are willing to accept it, maybe we should applaud it, as we applaud other charities. Who knows, maybe this is David Cameron's "Big Society" in action.

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A FRIEND received a onesie for Christmas, followed by another onesie at the New Year. So does she have two onesies - or a twosie?

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"I BELIEVE we should move to ban it," declares the Children's Commissioner for England Maggie Atkinson who says children need legal protection against being slapped by their parents. Dr Atkinson has no children of her own. And until you have actually had to deal with your own toddler attacking other kids, or your over-excited preschooler dashing into the traffic, then you really are in no position to lecture the rest of us.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Work begins at junction hit by accidents

Work – The Kings Head junction

MAJOR work to revamp an accident blackspot began on Monday. Contractors will now be on site to start the £1.3 million scheme to transform the Kings Head junction on the Sandwell-Birmingham border.

The long-awaited project will see improvements introduced at the junction of the Hagley Road, Bearwood Road and Lordswood Road. Work will take around six months to complete. It will include filling in the underpass underneath the Hagley Road, introducing a left-hand turning lane off the Hagley Road and a pedestrian phase on the traffic lights to enable children to safely cross from two secondary schools.

Abbey ward councillor and Sandwell's deputy council leader Steve Eling said: "People have complained about that subway ever since it was open and it doesn't provide a safe crossing for the junction, so I am just going to be glad it is being done."

Abbey ward councillors have been campaigning for the improvements for more than 15 years and in that time there have been a series of tragic accidents. In 2011, 16-year-old Rajinder Mahal from Smethwick was killed when he was in a collision with a motorbike after he tried to cross the road from Lordswood Boys' School & Sixth Form Centre.

Chiefs told to flatten The Public by experts

PROPERTY experts recommended bulldozing The Public and selling off the land, before a deal was signed to transform it into a college, it has been revealed.

by Alex Homer

Sandwell Council spent £39,000 asking Jones Lang LaSalle what to do with the £72 million arts centre to reduce the £1.5m subsidy the cash-strapped authority was providing.

A copy of the report, which the authority continued to refuse to disclose while it negotiated with Sandwell College, has now been seen by the Express & Star.

Philip Farrell, associate director of Jones Lang LaSalle, described the New Street venue as 'the wrong building in a challenging location'.

He said the council would rake in around £200,000 if the building was flattened and sold off. He also proposed an alternative option of turning the site into a conference centre and stopping all of the not-for-profit cultural and community activities taking place there.

A number of alternative uses were ruled out as, in many cases, the firm said that the investment needed to fund refits of the venue would not justify the anticipated returns.

Jones Lang LaSalle concluded: "The physical design and construction of the building is so unusual, and indeed illogical, that it prevents the effective occupation of the vast majority of users. Issues such as sound insulation, IT infrastructure, environmental control, energy efficiency, parking, natural light etc are not up to expected standards," the report added.

"Furthermore the building does not allow itself to be economically converted to meet these standards. There is always a better and cheaper alternative premises to companies who wish to locate in central West Bromwich," the report said.

"There are many more reasons why an occupier would not locate in The Public than reasons why they would." The council previously said it could not release the report, despite a request under the Freedom of Information Act, as it 'may prejudice the council's commercial interests'.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said he believed the report 'vindicated' the authority's deal with the college. He said: "This report showed The Public could never wash its own face."

Bearwood Blog boost

AN ONLINE community blog has been viewed by tens of thousands of people this year alone. The Bearwood Blog was established by Abbey ward councillor Bob Piper to highlight community issues and events in the area.

Over the course of 2013, WordPress.com – which hosts the blog – said it was viewed around 66,000 times.

The website added that was more than three times the numbers that could be seated at Madison Square Gardens for a concert. Its creators said that around four new pictures were added to the blog every week and the most popular post of the year was on July 2, with 1,451 views which was about Sandwell Council grant funding.

It's a blast as club goes Dutch

Musician Dutch Lewis takes to the stage at The Silvershine Jazz Club in Bearwood

YOUNG musicians took to the stage alongside veteran performers at a popular jazz club which kicked off its New Year season.

The Silvershine Jazz Club in Bearwood hosted the young musicians last night, which included special guests Vic Evans on vocal, Dutch Lewis on woodwind, Tim Amann on piano, Brian Wright on bass, Aidan Amann on drums, Sophie Hamilton-Foad on vocals and Gabriel Amann on trumpet.

The club on Bearwood Road used to be known as the The Corks Club, which was founded by the late saxophone legend Andy Hamilton, who passed away in 2012 aged 94.

Silvershine club promoter Paul Foad said: "It was a normal Thursday night gig featuring The Blue Notes, but we have had some of the young kids we work with who are coming through. Andy Hamilton's legacy was very much as a teacher as well as a great musician. We are trying to open the stage to young musicians and we are trying to get a junior Blue Notes."

£4k raised in memory of sufferer

THE FAMILY and friends of a father who died from a brain tumour earlier this year have raised more than £4,000 in his memory.

First diagnosed with brain cancer in 2007, Stefan Halloran, from Farley in Greets Green, West Bromwich, raised more than £14,000 for The Brain Tumour Charity before he passed away in May aged 29.

And his loved ones have since continued his hard work, with the fundraising total for two events in August having now been announced as a huge £4,000 for the charity.

A fun day was held at The Coach and Horses pub in West Bromwich, while a 22-mile walk was also held from the same pub to Bewdley on August 17, which included Mr Halloran's three-year-old son Jake dressed as Ironman.

Family member Chris Hickman said: "Stefan was incredibly important to all of us and we're so proud to have raised such an outstanding amount of money in his memory."

Trust gets top green award

A WEST Midlands hospital trust has been given a top award to reflect its commitment to the environment.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has been given a Gold Award to commend that 100 per cent of the trust's general waste is recycled.

The award, given by carbon footprint company E2B, shows an improvement on two years ago when the trust was given a Silver Star award for recycling 85 per cent of all waste.

Trust waste manager Simon Sims said: "This award is the result of a lot of hard work by our sustainability champions, but also those who have used our recycling bins."

Park takeover milestone due

A COMMUNITY organisation is celebrating the 10th anniversary of taking over the running of its local park. The Warley Woods Community Trust will be marking the milestone this year with a number of events.

It signed the contract that would allow it to take over the day to day running of the park on April 1, 2004. Celebratory events will be announced.

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Meeting to be held over hall revamp plan

A PUBLIC meeting will be held for residents to find out more about plans to transform a historic listed building into a hotel and conference centre.

Developers have submitted a planning application to revamp Great Barr Hall, which has stood empty on the Walsall-Sandwell border since 1978.

Proposals would see the landmark site turned into a hotel, restaurant, conference venue and 58 homes. The main hall will become a hotel, while homes will be built in the surrounding grounds. Beacon Action Group said due to the Christmas break and bank holidays, residents had less time to respond to the plans, which had an initial deadline of December 23. They have now secured an extension and are also organising a public meeting for those who want to find out more.

Bob Winkle, chairman of Beacon Action Group, has urged residents to play a part in the approval process.

He said: "Local residents ought to consider what, if any, benefit they will derive from the rebuilding of what will be a far grander version of the original Great Barr Hall, especially when its intended use is still uncertain.

Consultation must be open and transparent and involve all local residents, especially those who will be most affected by the development."

Those who would like to find out more, or be emailed the date of the public meeting, should follow Beacon Action Group on Twitter @beaconactiongrp, follow the group on Facebook or email beaconactiongroup@gmail.com.

Before submitting the plans new owners BCG Lakes held consultations with the public which revealed more than 75 per cent of people rejected the idea of demolishing the hall and replacing it with a modern glass building.

Great Barr Hall, empty for 36 years

Passenger is sought over abuse

A CCTV image of the man

POLICE want to speak to this man after a Walsall bus driver had abuse shouted at him. A man, who appeared to have been drinking, got on the number four bus in Walsall town centre heading towards West Bromwich.

He was spoken to by the driver for standing too close to the doors while the bus was moving.

The man then became angry and shouted abuse at the driver before trying to get into his cabin. The man then got off the bus near to the Stone Cross pub in Walsall Road, West Bromwich, and ran off. The drama happened at around 8pm on Friday, November 29.

Sgt Adrian Mortimer said: "This kind of behaviour is completely unacceptable." Anyone with information should call Sgt Mortimer on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Green light to sell car parks

APPROVAL has been given to sell four underused car parks. Sandwell Council is selling sites at Bilhay Lane and Bond Street in West Bromwich and Halberton Street and Cambridge Road in Smethwick.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain, cabinet member for asset management and land disposal, has now approved the sales.

He said: "Some of those car parks which we are selling off is because they are not being used very well."

Breakfast club at council house

PEOPLE can meet with contractor Thomas Vale Construction at a breakfast club event on January 24.

The 6.45am meeting, which takes place in the chamber rooms at Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, will focus on business opportunities. To book, call Steve Massey on 07929 353232 or email steph en_massey@sandwell.gov.uk

Sob story of lost cat used by pair targeting elderly

THEY turned up at elderly women's homes sobbing with a sad tale of how they had lost their beloved cat and pleading for help to find it.

But once let inside, Cristina Radosavlevic and Bianca Petrunescu, worked as a double team to burgle the homes of their unwitting victims.

The pair targeted victims including one woman aged in her 90s during the three-week crime spree last summer.

One would distract the woman with stories of the cat, while the other, under pretence of looking for the animal, would raid the house of jewellery and cash.

Finally caught by police, the pair appeared at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday and pleaded guilty to five burglary offences.

The offences took place in Birmingham, Warwickshire and Staffordshire between August 21 to September 13.

Radosavlevic, aged 19, of Lincoln Road, West Bromwich, also pleaded guilty to stealing cash, jewellery and a laptop from a 64-year old woman in Pheasey, Walsall, on August 20.

Miss Amy Jackson, defending her, said she had come from Italy, but had been left in the UK alone. She is originally from Serbia. Petrunescu, 26, lives in Jardine Road, Aston, Birmingham, but is originally from Romania.

The spate of burglaries started in Coventry on August 21 before moving to Erdington, in Birmingham, on August 30.

Finally the court heard that a home in James Road, in the Hamstead area of Great Barr, was targeted on September 13. The pair showed no emotion as the charges were read out.

Both were remanded in custody to appear at Birmingham Crown Court for sentencing on February 6.

Fiat driver sought in probe over hit and run

POLICE have said they are desperately seeking the driver of a Fiat Punto as the investigation into the hit and run collision that killed a pensioner continues.

Bill Fenton, 73, died in hospital after being hit by a vehicle at around 9.30pm on Saturday, November 23.

Officers have already appealed for the driver of a dark blue Fiat Punto that was seen in the area at the time to come forward as they may have help, but they have still not heard anything.

Sgt Paul Hughes, from the collision investigation unit at West Midlands Police, said: "We desperately want to find the driver of the black Fiat Punto, we are still no closer to finding them."

Mr Fenton, of nearby Astbury Avenue, was found in Beakes Road, Smethwick. He had suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital where he later died.

Police said he was struck by a large vehicle and whoever was driving must have known they had hit a person but left him in the road to die. Anybody with information is asked to call 101 or to call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Watching wildlife is a walk in the park

RSPB volunteer Alastair Hughes-Roden helps 13 year old Matthew Armitage identify some of the birds at Sandwell Valley

WALKERS strode off some of the seasonal excesses during a stroll around RSPB Sandwell Valley.

The relaxed walk was just the ticket for more than a dozen people, who were taken on a one-mile wander around the reserve's various pools, off Tanhouse Avenue, Great Barr, spotting wildlife along the way.

The event has proved popular for a number of years and gives families the chance to discover more about many of the visiting bird species which head to the area in winter.

The easy pace set by organisers meant the walk could be enjoyed by a range of ages including Matthew Armitage, aged 13, from Great Barr, and Genny Evans from Walsall. Stefan Bodnar, the site's warden and resident expert, said: "The weather wasn't great this year but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. People like to get out after all the celebrations of Christmas and New Year and the walk is a nice break from the weeks before."

"We have children as young as three or four come along but we also have people who are a long time retired and are in their 70s and 80s."

For more information or to book events at the reserve call 0121 357 7395, e-mail sandwellvalley@rspb.org.uk or visit the charity's website at **www.rspb.org.uk /sandwellvalley**

Warden Stefan Bodnar and Genny Evans

NEWS in brief

Rotary holiday offer for hotel

A BARGAIN holiday is on offer from the Rotary Clubs of Sandwell at a hotel on the Welsh border which caters for disabled and the elderly.

The Merton House Hotel in Ross on Wye has places available for people for the weeks starting March 22 and 29, with the cost set at £310.

Transport to and from the hotel is included. For more information on the hotel, log on to **www.merton house.org**

Anyone interested in the offer is asked to reply before January 21 with a stamped addressed envelope including their name, address and telephone number to Merton House Holiday offer, c/o Bill Elliott, Orchard School, Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, B68 8LD.

Patron Julie's troupe in plea

A DRAMATIC society which boasts the actress Julie Walters as its patron is on the lookout for new performers.

Charlemont Dramatic Society has been based at Pennyhill Primary School, Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich, since it formed after the Second World War.

It hopes to stage a murder mystery or thriller for its next production in April.

Malcolm Wills, society spokesman said despite strong numbers, the group was not blessed with a spread of different ages.

Anyone wishing to join is asked to contact secretary Sylvia Hill on 0121 357 4169 or email hill28@sky.com.

Crackdown on car-related crime

A CRACKDOWN has been launched by police trying to stop thieves taking car registration plates and breaking into parked cars.

St Paul's neighbourhood in Smethwick has suffered from high levels of vehicle crime, according to officers. The latest trend has seen thieves targeting cars overnight, taking registration plates and any valuables left in parked cars.

Police are now visiting hotspot streets and advising residents how they can have anti-theft screws fitted to their cars for free.

Sgt Amjad Rasul said year-on-year there was a 7.4 per cent drop in thefts from vehicles across the area, with seven in December.

NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

HOT on the heels of shadow transport minister Mary Creagh's outburst at the apparent sexism of Thomas the Tank Engine, it now appears that another inhabitant of the Westminster bubble has been spending a little too much time in the children's library again.

This time it's independent consultant Caroline Shenton, who has been commissioned to come up with how to turn the Houses of Parliament into a 'visitor attraction'. Her proposal is for a Willy Wonka-style great glass elevator on the side of the Victoria Tower.

I know politicians love banging on about 'transparency', but this is ridiculous.

❒❒❒❒❒

WHEN they said we're all in this together, it never for one moment occurred to me that would extend to ladies and gentleman of the Bar.

No, not that kind of bar. A group of our learned friends were out on strike this week, manning the picket lines in their full clobber, gowns, winged-collars, and wigs, the whole shebang.

Cuts to the legal aid budget has apparently left some of them struggling to get by, says Mr Nigel Lithman QC, who appears to be a sort of shop steward for m'learned friends. He warns that unless barristers are paid more, many of us will soon find ourselves living next door to paedophiles and rapists because there will be nobody to prosecute them. Not that he would want to cause any undue alarm, you understand.

Needless to say, there have been bitter arguments about how much barristers actually earn. Justice Secretary Chris Grayling says they typically earn £84,000 a year. Mr Lithman - doesn't he sound like he should be a judge on X Factor? - says it is closer to £37,000.

I'm sure they would agree, though, that there's only one way to settle this. Full public inquiry, led by a top judge, senior silks on either side, and wigs all round.

What do we want? An independent inquiry. When do we want it? In the fullness of time.

❒❒❒❒❒

IT would take a heart of stone not to see the funny side of the ship full of global-warming fans who set sail to Antarctica to investigate the disappearing ice cap - and ended up getting stuck in it.

At the time of writing, their ship has been stuck in the 'vanishing' ice for 10 days, as is the Chinese ice-breaker ship sent out to rescue them. Eventually they were freed by a third ship, an Australian icebreaker.

Quite how many hydrocarbons have been emitted during this ill-fated school field trip, but I suspect it will take quite a few low-energy light bulbs and cycle trips by the time we're finished.

Setting standards – Brett with community champion Nick Sutcliffe at the bakery

Lorries at the Wednesbury bakery which produces two million loaves a week

Using their loaf to keep it in the family

IT IS ONE of the largest bakeries in the UK, employing 4,500 staff – including 430 from its base in Wednesbury

And no matter what type of bread you eat at home, you are bound to have heard of the Warburtons brand.

The family-run business is as synonymous with the shopping list as Cadbury chocolate and Tetley tea, and ever since its beginnings in 1876 it is still going strong.

Thomas Warburton and his wife Ellen first opened their grocery shop in 1870, and during a slump in the grocery market in 1876, Ellen started baking bread.

Her first batch of four loaves of bread and six cakes sold out in under an hour and within two weeks the tiny shop in Bolton was renamed 'Warburtons the Bakers' and continued to go from strength to strength.

More than 130 years later the company is still in the hands of the family, run by fifth generation family members Jonathan, Ross and Brett Warburton.

Integral

And family values very much remain an integral part of the business, Brett Warburton said during a visit to the Wednesbury bakery. "I'm fifth generation and it is still very much a family business. Not only in terms of its ownership, but also in terms of its ethos. We pride ourselves on being a family business. There are still three family members on the board – myself, Jonathan and Ross."

The Wednesbury base, in Moorcroft Drive, produces two million loaves a week and serves around 2,000 shops, 24 hours a day, 363 days a year.

It closes only for Christmas Day and Easter. Brett said the brand is often quoted as being one of the top three in the country behind Coca Cola and Walkers, and it aims to treat staff as part of one big family. As such, it runs a scheme called community giving, investing in schemes as well as donating products to the local community.

Brett Warburton proudly views the fruits of his company's labour as he visited the Wednesbury site, which employs 430

"We like to think we treat our people well and want our business to operate as a large family. We first set foot outside Lancashire in 1984 and we have grown that on quality of production and quality of service. We are very lucky to have a lot of people who have worked for the business for a very long time," Brett added.

Nick Sutcliffe is the community champion at Wednesbury and explained the company invests in a number of ways. Under financial giving, the company donates small amounts of money to purchase specific pieces of equipment.

Last year more than £20,000 was donated in the West Midlands supporting a range of activities, as well as hundreds of thousands of pounds more to the charitable sector. In addition, around £27,000 of products were given to one-off events such as church events, breakfast clubs, and Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham for families of patients in hospitals and hospices.

Meanwhile, the company also has an investment programme where it gets employees into the community. In one case it has teamed up with the RSA Academy in Tipton and has this year been working with business students on the international baccalaureate. Brett added: "Where we used to just give someone a cheque and move on we like to get involved with the people that we work with."

People can apply for support from the firm's financial giving scheme, which is aimed at supporting projects, activities and organisations that have charitable aims and will be of real direct benefit to local communities. Visit **www.warburtons.co.uk** to find out more.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A JOB centre was besieged by hundreds of people applying for work at the Austin Rover car plant in Longbridge. Job-hunters defied the snow and rain and started queuing outside the employment exchange in Northfield before it had opened. Around 600 people applied for fewer than 400 posts. But it was all in vain as the positions were already filled.

A POLICE sergeant was wounded by a Zulu spear when a man thrust it through a bedroom door during a house siege in Birmingham. A 34-year-old man, who was eventually persuaded to come out after seven hours, was detained under the Mental Health Act.

1993...

CORONATION Street actress Anne Kirkbride was set for a return to the cobbles after recovering from throat cancer. The actress, who played Deirdre Barlow had a lump removed from her neck.

EDUCATION Secretary John Patten revealed that he had been 'flogged' from time to time at his strict Jesuit school. But despite this experience, he said he regretted that the cane had been banned by European court rulings as he launched a new crackdown on bullying and racial harassment in schools.

THE world of cricket was mourning the death of commentator Brian 'Johnners' Johnston, at the age of 81. His double act with Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld on Test Match Special, which frequently made much use of schoolboy humour, would often leave listeners, not to mention himself, in fits of giggles.

2003...

SEVERAL shops were forced to close as Brierley Hill town centre was overcome with a swarm of rats. In scenes reminiscent of the Pied Piper, one woman walking along Pearson Street turned round to discover she was being followed by around half a dozen rodents.

BRITNEY Spears' whirlwind marriage was set to end as suddenly as it began, with reports that she was trying to get her vows annulled within hours of making them at Las Vegas' Little White Chapel. Sources said the 5.30am ceremony, where she was walked down the aisle by a barman, was a joke which had gone too far.

A MOTHER and son were rescued from a house in Wolverhampton after an electric blanket being used to heat home brew caught fire. Assistant divisional fire officer David Glenis warned that electric blankets should never be used in this way.

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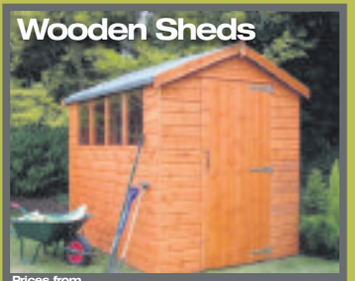
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LETTERS

Factories bid delight

I WAS delighted to read Arl-ington Industries Group has bought three former Remploy factories, securing work for around 200 people, most of whom have disabilities.

As someone disabled from an early age, I know how difficult it can be for disabled people to gain employment.

Many years ago, when applying for sales representative jobs, I was told by one well-known insurance company I would put people off. Another, a well-known biscuit manufacturer, told me that my only employment would be sweeping floors.

Many disabled people want to gain employment, but prejudice will always exist in some form or another. However, some enlightened employers do exist.

L HALES, Cradley Heath

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Only lifeline for many residents

AS I LISTEN to the sad news that the ring and ride services for our older and disabled members of the public is possibly facing the axe – 'Why?' is the question.

I run three clubs in Wednesbury voluntarily, for the OAPs. People attend from all over the West Midlands and this is their way of getting a little sunshine into their lives meeting different people, making new friends, enjoying a social life which may never have come their way except for the team and courtesy of the ring and ride staff, and the organisation of people who run them.

Hundreds of people have their lives planned around it and it keeps them not feeling old, but an active member of our country, growing old gracefully.

Most of us are the children of the War Years, growing up in stressful conditions.

Robbed of our childhood days, now they are taking away our twilight days too.

I speak to members and they say they would not mind paying more for the services offered.

Most of them are disabled people who are the travellers using the ring and ride – so who will be there for them now?

C HAMMOND
Wednesbury

Aren't we civilised?

THE comments by L Pearson in your letters page make me wonder about us being a civ-ilised country. He or she wants benefits reduced to deter peo-ple coming into our country.

Pearson says that having so many enter the UK is all the fault of the EU. This takes no account of human nature. People go where they can get a good deal. I am not saying that this is a right thing to do when money is scarce, but it is a desire of anyone to look after themselves and their families.

If Pearson was in the same situation as many of the European poor, then he/she would do the same thing. Or would he/she cut off their nose to spite their face? If benefits are cut even more, the indigenous of these isles would also suffer.

C MILLWARD, Tipton

Day dreaming Darren needs to look at past

DARREN Cooper and his council should start looking at reality instead of day dreaming and making further mistakes in West Bromwich.

The multi-storey car park is well past its sell-by date and should be pulled down but to replace it with an ice rink, use your common sense. Take an entrance fee for a family of two adults and two children plus the hire of skates, what average Black Country family can afford these prices?

What is needed is another supermarket to challenge Tesco and others linked in with Queens Square.

That is yet another pipe dream, coffee bars and wine bars planned for it – what next? Those businesses would be all right for a university town not what we have in the town, college students most of whom are underage to use the wine bars.

Darren, wake up and smell the coffee, look back when West Bromwich was known as the golden mile and not the bad penny we have today.

JOHN MELAIRE
Gilbert Street, Tividale

Health centre staff fly the flag for NHS

READING my newspaper, the front page exposes the dreadful situation the NHS is in, also the condition of many surgeries where in some cases maggots were found in cubicles, coupled with uncaring staff.

When you have a culture of patients asking "will I come out alive?" it is shocking.

I would like to express my gratitude and hold up to example the Neptune Health Centre in Tipton. You would think a huge complex and hundreds of patients arriving daily would see some failings. Not a bit.

We have the greatest care anyone could wish for.

From receptionists, nurses – who are the most caring of nature – and lovely doctors.

Having experienced this, I know that should I need an emergency call-out by a doctor I know that is what I will get.

I say throw away targets, get matrons back and put patients first.

J RUSSELL
Dudley Road
Tipton

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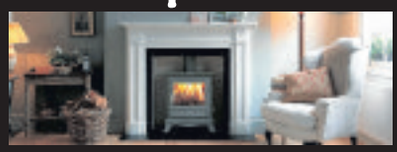

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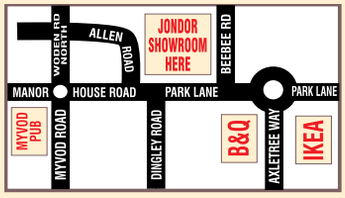

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NEWS

Multi-million pound restoration of pools is now nearing completion

At the front, from left, are friends group officials Annette Welch, Carol Hartill, Roger Stopford and Sue Slater

by Andrew Turton

RESIDENTS will be able to get closer to wildlife and take in the views of picturesque pools as a park's multi-million pound restoration gathers pace.

Work is under way to transform Dartmouth Park, in West Bromwich, back to its former glory – much to the delight of campaigners.

A £6.3 million restoration scheme is already in full flow after a year of rapid improvements in the Grade II listed park.

The latest to be unveiled are viewing platforms around the upper pool, installed to help give people and young children a safe place to watch nature's displays. They will also give disabled people better access and will link together with a ramp to be opened down in the park's lower pool area.

It is all part of the second phase of restoration work which will cost in the region of £1.7 million.

Members of the Friends of Dartmouth Park declared their joy at seeing the latest element of the scheme in place.

Group secretary Carol Hartill said: "We are really pleased with the platform and it looks great.

"We are excited about everything that has happened this year.

"It is really moving forward now." An improved car park has been created off Reform Street and boundary walls and fencing have been updated as well.

Carol said the park was finally feeling better linked with the town centre itself after it was cut adrift with the building of the Expressway.

"It has brought the park closer to the town.

"We think it has made a big difference along with the New Square shopping area being built," she added.

Dozens of new trees will be planted in the park over the coming 12 months as part of the next stage of the works.

ADVERTISEMENT

We're all prone to make New Year resolutions – eating healthily, walking more and shedding a few pounds to name a few. Many of those intentions involve lifestyle decisions and seizing the opportunity for change. A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true and none more so for the effervescent Ann Skitt of Willenhall, who made a New Year resolution to ditch her old, troublesome dentures and get a brand new smile.
Is this the right time for you to do the same?

New Year ... new smile

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Sturmey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport. Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young–at-heart 74-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself as popular hairdressers' model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon whenever she fancies a new look.

"I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Josiah Parkes & Sons lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked. If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it – it would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up the courage to see Steve. I knew exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed.

"I told Steve I didn't want teeth like Cilla Black or Stacey Solomon, they would not look good on someone my age," she adds.

Husband Brian is full of praise – "It's taken years off her and the teeth are just perfect for her."

Her teeth were hand-crafted on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

A long-standing working relationship between Jon and Steve has fused two dental disciplines which continues to enjoy excellent clinical outcomes.

"Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too," says Ann.

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NEWS

Hospital bid for homeless youngsters due to start

WORK will soon begin on new accommodation for homeless youngsters at Sandwell Hospital, as more details are revealed about the 'life changing' scheme.

A £600,000 refurbishment of an old accommodation block is due, to house 27 young people as they are being helped into work through the new Homeless Prevention Programme.

by Simon Stone

The initiative is aimed at getting 16 to 18-year-olds into work with the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell along with Rowley Regis and City Hospitals, through an apprenticeship scheme.

The trust is now looking for partners to develop and manage the accommodation, and it is hoped work will begin imminently.

Mike Sharon, director of strategy, said: "We want a partner to refurbish our existing Hallam Street properties this spring, something many staff and local residents have urged us to do. This is an exciting part of our work with the local community."

It is hoped the new scheme will not only reduce the number of homeless people in Sandwell, but also provide sustained employment for around 20 young people every year.

The 27 beds will be provided in nine flats, which are currently in a student accommodation block on Hallam Street in West Bromwich. The design of the refurbishment is expected to be finished next month.

Reports of vice in fall

FEWER reports of prostitution in problem streets have been received by police in the past few months, according to a senior officer. People have complained of drivers propositioning women walking the streets to ply their trade in Bearwood for years. Sgt Gary Evans said: "There has been a significant reduction in reports of prostitution in the area."

Baby, what a top start

Christy Wilkes with Roman Perry, Martin and Lucy Campbell with Lillian Martha, and Jodie Hassall with Alfie

AS REVELLERS welcomed in the new year with fireworks displays and parties, Black Country parents had an extra reason to celebrate. Delighted mothers and fathers welcomed new members into their families on the first day of 2014, some of them becoming parents for the first time.

Little Gracie Welcome could be the first baby born in 2014 in the whole of the UK, arriving at 10 seconds after midnight and weighing 7lbs 3oz, delighting midwives and nurses at the M2 maternity unit at City Hospital.

Mum Lethea Rankine, 22, and father Romeo, 27, from Hagley Road in Edgbaston, said: "She was due on December 18 so she was probably waiting for that time."

At Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, eight babies had been born by mid-afternoon on New Year's Day. Jodie Hassall, aged 24, of Tipton, gave birth to son Alfie, at 3.30am, who weighed 5lbs 9oz. "I'm really pleased he came on New Years Day, it's great," she said.

Arriving at 2.07am was Roman Perry, much to the delight of his mother Christy Wilkes of Holly Hall, Dudley. Roman weighed in at 8lb 7oz.

Lucy Campbell and husband Martin, of Stourbridge, celebrated the birth of daughter Lillian at 1.02am. She weighed 7lb 3oz and arrived 13 days past her due date.

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NEWS

Parking boost on way with backing

WORK on a new car park in front of shops which attracted support from more than 1,000 people could start in April, subject to agreed funding.

Around £168,000 would need to be spent to transform the grassed area in front of shops in the Black Country, into spaces for up to 22 vehicles.

A petition in favour of providing a car park in Lucknow Road, Willenhall, containing around 1,200 signatures, has been handed in to the local authority, which is looking to allocate funding as part of its draft capital programme.

A report states: "This scheme will provide a new off street car park with approximately 22 parking spaces to support the operation and vitality of the businesses at the Luck-now Road local shopping centre."

Meanwhile, a move to create extra parking by converting a grass verge into space for cars has taken a step forward. The work on Tildesley Drive, Willenhall, will now be considered for a slice of £250,000 funding after a consultation with residents led to it being named as the preferred option for a revamp.

Suggestions were put forward through the Willenhall area partnership and residents in the area voted overwhelmingly for the road to receive the revamp over others in the area.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires said that Tildesley Drive received 153 out of the 155 for votes cast and it now goes forward to be considered for a cash injection.

Only here for the beer, as micro-pubs pull in punters

NO TELEVISIONS, games machines or loud, blaring music, and hot food is certainly off the menu. Micro-pubs are a very different breed to the watering holes of most high streets.

They pride themselves on offering locally brewed real ales and fruity ciders, all in the confines of a single room.

by Laura Blyth

And the concept of sipping pints and rubbing shoulders with the same old faces in the cosy setting of what feels like a front room is growing in popularity up and down the country.

In the past four years, around 40 micro-pubs have flung open their doors to drinkers. Twenty-four have opened in the past 12 months alone.

First

The first micro-pub to open in the West Midlands was Hail to the Ale, in Wolverhampton, run by a married couple who set up their own Morton Brewery six years ago based in Essington.

In its first few months the pub has gone down a storm in the local area, according to owner Gary Morton, aged 53, who runs it with wife Angela, 50.

Mr Morton said: "Micro-pubs are a stripped down version of ordinary pubs. It has been going excellently since we opened.

"We opened our doors quietly on a Thursday evening. Within half an hour, all the tables and chairs were taken.

"The three weekends that followed, we were absolutely packed. People in the area felt something like this was needed. It's comfortable and nostalgic for people.

"I imagine there'll be a couple of thousand more micro-pubs opening in the UK in the next few years."

Rather than chips straight out of the fryer served up in some pubs, Hail to the Ale dishes up traditional pub nibbles such as pork scratchings, pickled onions, pickled eggs and pies. And there isn't a cheap looking alcopop in sight, or any spirits.

Mr Morton continued: "Ordinary pubs try to do too much. They try to cater for too many people and end up not appealing to anyone.

"We came up with the idea to open a micro-pub in March. We'd seen a feature on micro-pubs on TV and thought it was perfect for us.

"We have a good group of regulars. But we are also seeing new faces coming in. It seems as if there are still people just finding out about us. We appeal to middle-aged to elderly people. But we've still had to ask for ID from time-to-time from some younger drinkers."

From left, David Bowden, John Penn and landlord Gary Morton at Hail to the Ale in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton

Angela Morton ready to pull a pint at the micro-pub

Gary and Angela Morton outside their venture in the city

Growing firm will take over locks site

THE SITE of an historic Black Country lock-making firm is being taken over by a growing manufacturing business which will double its workforce, it has emerged.

The former Willenhall Locks factory has been bought by 1st Access UK Ltd which is also based in the town and is investing £100,000 in the first expansion phase.

The firm, set up six years ago by Willenhall-born ex firefighter Jason Loydon and his partner Vikki Lindop, had a £2 million turnover last year and currently employs around 25 workers.

And the pair plan to retain features such as old locks, light switches and pictures to keep the heritage of the former factory alive.

Staffing is anticipated to double within five years as part of the relocation into the bigger former lock firm premises between Stringes Lane and John Harper Street.

The site, which had been put on the market for more than £300,000, was bought for an undisclosed sum ahead of an auction.

Willenhall Locks and Keys Ltd suddenly fell into administration in September, having been a key feature in the town since opening in the late 1950s. The firm specialises in creating roller shutter doors, shopfronts and automatic doors from its current base in Spring Road.

The move will see its floorspace increase from around 8,000 sq ft to 31,000 sq ft.

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"I cannot stress enough how much pride we take in every window, door, conservatory, orangery we manufacture and install."

With its roots in manufacturing, the business started more than 19 years ago, and right from the very start an emphasis has been placed on supplying only the finest and most energy-efficient products, but still remaining affordable.

"Our commitment extends beyond the manufacturing process to the design and installation of doors, windows, conservatories and other home improvement services," explains Nathan.

"For some customers we supply new windows and doors, for others we provide a complete home improvement service from building extensions and fitting kitchens, to designing and installing conservatories and more recently Orangeries," says Nathan.

One tremendously satisfied customer is Rick Houghton. Having being recommended to Choices Windows by colleagues at work he employed them to carry out extensive work at his home, he is keen to share his experiences and commend the team involved.

"Every stage of the process was excellently planned and we received nothing but the best service from start to finish. The tradesmen were outstanding and we were so impressed that we handed over our keys and went on holiday whilst the work was being carried out."

Rick and his family were absolutely thrilled and utterly delighted with the results on their return.

"We are so grateful to Nathan and his team for transforming our home into something we could only have dreamed of," remarked Rick.

Keen to keep ahead in the style stakes, Nathan is ever aware of the latest designs, materials and colours on offer, and strives to make these available to his customers.

"Many people are now opting for stylish coloured PVC-U, influenced by timeless muted 'National Trust' tones. Sage green, gun metal grey and cream are all becoming very fashionable alongside the traditional clean bright white," explains Nathan.

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The old sayings are always the best - after a low price is long forgotten, poor quality long remains".

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MEMORY LANE

Oldbury Rep – a scene from Merchant of Venice, 1956

Beginnings – Oldbury Parish Rooms, where it all started

The theatre group in a scene from Red Peppers in 1956

Barlow Playhouse, which is now the Barlow Theatre

A very young Doreen seen on stage at the theatre as Aladdin in 1955

The shows go on

Panto – Georgina Smith and Aiden Colwell

Doreen Bastable, aged 85

by Adam Grinsell

THEY HAVE survived a world war and an arson attack which completely gutted their theatre, but as the new year begins, one amateur dramatics group will be celebrating its 75th season.

Started in 1939, The Oldbury Repertory Players, or Oldbury Rep as they are better known, are currently staging their 490th major production – Jack And The Beanstalk.

Over the years more than 1,000 different people have graced their stage, including three generations of the same families. Relationships have also been forged within the group, with some meeting their spouses on stage.

One of those to meet their partners at the group was Doreen Bastable, aged 85, who has been chairman of the Rep for 35 years and a member for 70 years since she was 15.

Mrs Bastable, from Mucklow Hill in Halesowen, said: "My husband Daniel was a builder, and he helped to make the theatre what it is today – he helped to reconstruct the building when we bought it. We were married in 1959 after I met him a couple of years before when I was performing."

Mr Bastable was also very involved in the reconstruction of the theatre after an arson attack destroyed almost everything in the 1972. Mrs Bastable added: "That was a blow, but we raised ourselves from the ashes."

The Oldbury Repertory Players were formed by the attendees of an elocution night class at Oldbury Technical School just before the outbreak of the Second World War, and started in the Oldbury Parish Rooms.

Their first performance was a self-grown stageshow called Tonight At 7.30, involving various sketches, and they continued right through the war.

"It was a struggle to start with," Mrs Bastable said. "People were being called up to the forces or to do shift work, but we did survive."

As the company continued to grow, it purchased the Methodist Chapel and School in Spring Street, now Spring Walk, in Langley, for £1,700 thanks to an interest free loan from the company's then president CT Barlow.

Over the next few years the chapel was converted into a theatre and in January 1956 opened as The Barlow Playhouse – it is now known as Barlow Theatre, and has its own bar and 173-seat auditorium.

The parents of company secretary Christopher Smith, 56, were founder members of the group, and he also met his wife Lisa there.

His daughters Cassandra and Georgina have both performed with the group too – Georgina is playing the Princess in the latest production.

He said: "The company gives you a comradeship, it's a friendship – we have a great social life with things like quiz nights, so it's not just about rehearsing and putting on plays."

Company members, which in the past have included Old Hill comedienne and former Eastenders actress Josie Lawrence in their ranks, also build the sets, do the lighting, work behind the bars and do the marketing. It receives no grants, so the only way it makes any money is by 'putting bums on seats'.

Jack And The Beanstalk takes place from January 10 to 18. To buy tickets and for more information about the company, including how to become a member, see **www.oldburyrep.org**

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NEWS

Bankrupts in closed firm will not face legal action

NO ACTION will be taken against a chain of solicitors and estate agents that closed down when the partners were declared bankrupt after one of the workers was jailed for stealing £165,000, it has been revealed

By David Banner

Stables & Company's premises in Halesowen, Stourbridge and Rowley Regis were closed by legal watchdog The Solicitors Regulation Authority 20 months ago.

The move followed three of the partners being declared bankrupt, leaving thousands of clients in limbo.

The watchdog said there was also 'reason to suspect dishonesty' on the part of a former employee. Head cashier Pauline Sutcliffe later admitted theft at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Partners David Moore, Nigel Jordan and Jessica Bird were all declared bankrupt on April 30 last year and their practising certificates were suspended.

They could have been banned altogether, but the SRA revealed that no further action will be taken.

SRA spokesman Lee Shrimpton said: "One of the reasons for closing down Stables & Co was that we suspected dishonesty by an employee. There followed criminal proceedings against that employee, which have now concluded. We decided it was not in the public interest to pursue formal disciplinary proceedings against the partners of the firm, David John Moore, Jessica Louise Bird and Nigel Jordan."

Clients who believe they were owed money were advised to apply for compensation via the SRA. The court heard Sutcliffe, who was jailed for 14 months, controlled cash payments from clients to Stables and Co and regularly skimmed off small amounts of the money for herself before fiddling the books to cover up the crime.

She admitted stealing from the firm between 2001 and 2010. The scam was only discovered when the 58-year-old from Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, handed herself in.

£10,000 anonymous donation helps group

Manager Deb Harris at the Dorothy Parkes Centre, Smethwick

AN anonymous donation of more than £10,000 will help a West Midlands group which provides food for those in need continue operating into the new year.

The project, dubbed Smethwick in a Stew, was launched at the start of December at the Dorothy Parkes Centre in the town with the aim of feeding people struggling to afford to eat and providing a place for people to meet up and chat.

But now the initiative hopes to expand and provide food for another three months, thanks to the cash handout from a mystery donor and funding from Sandwell Council.

The new service will be based at Smethwick Library.

Appeal on anniversary

MEMBERS of Tipton Community Association are making final preparations for their golden anniversary celebrations by calling on people to share their memories of the town.

The group marks its 50th Golden Anniversary in 2014 with special events throughout the year plus the publication of a special book. It is calling on local people and past members to get in touch to share photographs and recollections. For more information visit **www.tiptoncommunityassociation.com** or contact Barry Whitehouse at barrywhitehouse@blueyonder.co.uk

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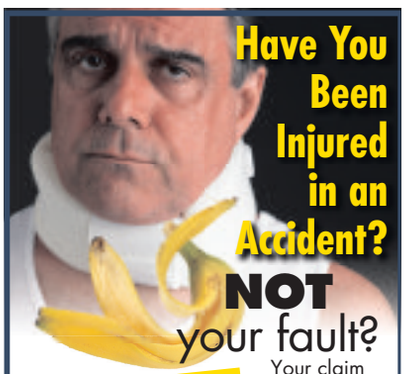

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NEWS

Black Country archives set to open at new site

HUGE glass windows and eye-catching architecture – these are the modern surroundings helping residents delve into their past.

Final preparations are being made ready to open the £6 million Dudley Archives Centre to the general public on Tuesday, in Tipton Road, near the Sandwell border.

Thousands of documents have been assembled in the stylish setting next to the traditional buildings of the neighbouring Black Country Living Museum.

Large rooms house shelves crammed with precious items detailing much of the history and development of Dudley borough. Catalogues of documents including archives of editions of the Express & Star have found a new home in the purpose-built building.

Permanent

Each room regulates the temperature and humidity to ensure thousands of photographs, books, maps and other records are kept in pristine condition.

Near the foyer will be lockers for belongings to be stored while people are looking at the records and a permanent exhibition area for bigger items in the collection. There is a main search room complete with large windows bringing natural light inside, and set up with desks and chairs where archive documents will be brought out to visitors.

All of the items in the council's collection, which has items dating back to 1182, will be stored in two depositories.

The centre boasts the latest computer equipment and Wi-Fi internet services. The centre will be open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9am to 5pm, except on Thursdays when it will open at 9.30am until 7pm.

The impressive new £6 million archives centre building on Tipton Road

Hall revamp deadline

AN HISTORIC town hall's £500,000 revamp will be completed by April, it has been announced.

Sandwell Council intends to spend £300,000 relocating staff from its housing department into Wednesbury Town Hall. It will also fork out a further £200,000 on improving facilities for community groups.

Work has already begun and it is hoped the project will be complete by around April 11.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, who represents Wednesbury North ward, said the project would be completed in three phases. The first will include sprucing up the box office used for gigs being booked at the venue by Wednesbury Celebrates, a community group.

She said: "This is long overdue.The town hall has been thriving in recent times and this will give it that bit extra. It will become a one-stop shop for residents as they will be able to look at what events are coming up as well as ask housing queries, visit council departments as well as access adults and childrens services."

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Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust provides community and hospital healthcare across Sandwell.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust saw a patient on a face-to-face basis one and a half million times and provides care from 150 locations, as well as in the comfort of your own home.

This week we feature:

Hospital pharmacist, Julie Brooks, who is ringing the changes as the recipient of the 2013 'Galen Award' of £24,000 to support her project on Pharmacist 'intelligent' referrals to a Psychiatric Liaison Team.

Julie Brooks, hospital pharmacist in the SWBH NHS Trust

Challenge

Julie, aged 34, studied pharmacology (the science of the mechanism of drugs) before becoming a pharmacist and joining SWBH NHS Trust in 2002. For the last seven years she has been a teacher practitioner pharmacist, splitting her time between the trust and teaching at Aston University. Outside work her challenge for 2014 is to run the London Marathon.

She explained: "Pharmacy is a real love for me. I enjoy the contact I have with our patients and the multidisciplinary team on the wards with the clinical input that this brings.

"By understanding how medications affect us, I can recommend the best ones for certain ailments. In a hospital environment that is even more important as inpatients are generally quite ill, so anticipating side effects and combinations of drugs is vital for the safety of our patients."

The Galen award is a personal research grant that is awarded to support the development of ideas for patient and public benefit.

Julie's passion is to help patients who are prescribed with antipsychotic medications, to ensure they receive regular reviews to pick up any potential problems with side effects of the medication they are taking. Julie has been working with the psychiatric liaison team for the last year looking at the use of antipsychotic drugs within the hospital. Known to be associated with an increased risk of falls, delirium, cerebrovascular events and death, it is crucial that patients prescribed them receive regular specialist review to prevent harm.

The new system identifies patients on the medication in real time so that Julie can review them and refer to the RAID team if necessary. The award will enable Julie to continue her research and investigate the concept of pharmacists providing a formal referral service.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

An inspiring approach

NISHKAM High School and Sixth Form is a new, Department for Education funded free school, which opened in September 2012. The school adds an inspirational, faith and values led approach to the education landscape in Birmingham.

A brand new state-of-the-art building, eventually accommodating 700 students will be completed by April 2014.

The school seeks to raise the aspirations of all of its students by preparing for university from the outset.

Nishkam High School has already developed links with universities, including a recent visit to meet the admissions tutors at Oxford University.

The team from Oxford was very impressed with the vision of the school, together with the community and parental voluntary effort that has gone into its beginning.

At the heart of the school is a unique concept, different to many traditional faith schools, where the school seeks to 'inspire the pupils of all faiths and those of none'.

Nurturing

Nishkam means 'selflessness' and involves going beyond oneself, to unlock infinite potential and do more for the common good.

Nishkam High School is shaping the lives of young people, inspiring them to become compassionate leaders of the future.

A sixth form applicant said: "I met the teachers at the open day and knew straight away I would be studying in a nurturing environment that challenges me to develop further."

Head of sixth form, Shelley Pearson says: "I believe every young person has a right to high quality education, in an environment that develops the person.

It is very exciting to be working in this inspirational culture."

Executive principal, Terry Green said: "The outstanding staff we have recruited emphasise academic excellence and help our students flourish by embedding core values supported through curriculum enrichment."

Pupils at Nishkam enjoy a unique environment with a mix of faiths

NEWS

Members tell of shock after club lorry crash

IT WAS a horrific scene straight from a tragic Hollywood thriller when a lorry ploughed through the walls of a bustling social club, killing its driver.

And members of the Royal British Legion club in Wednesbury have said they were still trying to come to terms with the tragedy as they tried to resume some normality at the venue.

Just two days after the devastating crash the club reopened and went on to host a New Year's Eve party for around 100 revellers.

Chairman Leigh Jones said although everyone was still 'very much in shock', the club was keen to get back to normal.

Snooker

"A lot of people are upset about it and there are some who are still scared to come in because of what happened," he said.

"Everyone is aware that it could have been so much worse if the lorry had come through the bar and into the main room. We were so lucky that no-one that was in the snooker room when the lorry hit was injured," he said. The club reopened on Saturday, December 30, after members rallied around to clean up and a poignant ceremony was held in memory of 55-year-old Polish lorry driver Henryk Jackowski, who lost his life in the crash.

Mr Jones, aged 39, said Mr Jackowski's family, who are believed to live in West Bromwich, also visited the club.

"We wanted to do something in memory of the driver. A wreath was laid and we also held a minute's silence," he said.

The lorry smashed into the snooker room, which has been boarded up ahead of rebuilding work.

Terry Fitzgerald, bar manager, left, and Leigh Jones, chairman, at the club

The family inside the snooker room when the lorry struck have spoken for the first time.

Lisa Tonks was in the room with her husband Brian, 42, and children Lucy, 10, Kerrie, six and Jack, three. Her daughter Kirsty, 19, was in another part of the club while daughter Jamie-Lee, 17, was not in attendance.

Mrs Tonks, a 38-year-old NHS worker, from Pound Road, Wednesbury, said: "My son was sitting nearest to where the truck came in and my husband had to drag my two girls away. I saw the roof coming in and I had to drag my son away, otherwise it would have fallen on top of him. I am still suffering from the shock of it all, we are not sleeping at all. We were about a foot away from where it happened.

"What I thought was a wall was actually the cab of the lorry that I saw come through.

"At first I thought it was thunder, my husband thought it was a gas explosion, we just saw the wall crumbling."

Tool setter Mr Tonks, added: "We just grabbed the kids and got out and told people in the bigger room to get out.

"We had no idea it was a truck. We were out of there in seconds."

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Bookings for Tuesdays throughout the term are open to schools, colleges and Surestarts a.m. and p.m. sessions.

Here's what some schools have had to say about a visit to Salop Drive Market Garden:

'We had a fantastic time! The staff had researched our Dig for Victory theme and our pupils tried the World War II style vegetables, even the stinging nettles.'

Burnt Tree Primary *'Excellent afternoon out with a direct link to our creative curriculum work on local environment.'*

Cape Hill Primary *'Pitched at the right level for our reception class to learn about growing and healthy eating.'*

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NEWS

Lamb boon as outlets' curries get thumbs-up

AN INVESTIGATION into whether lamb curries sold in restaurants in Sandwell contain only lamb has shown that there have been major improvements.

It follows a shock report two years ago, when more than half of lamb curries tested in Sandwell were shown to contain other types of meat.

by Lisa Wright

In the latest tests, 34 out of 36 sampled by the borough's trading standards team were given the all-clear after testing. Two samples contained small traces of chicken but this was due to poor handling procedures in the kitchen and the restaurant owners have been told to make changes.

The figures are in stark contrast to those from two years ago when more than half of 39 samples contained other types of meat – and nearly 20 per cent contained no lamb at all.

Trading Standards took legal action in the worst cases and warned other restaurants they must improve.

Councillor Paul Moore, Sandwell's cabinet member with responsibility for trading standards, warned further checks would be carried out in the future. He said: "It is encouraging to see a marked improvement in this problem. It shows business behaviour can be improved through a combination of enforcement action and guidance. Restaurants should not rest on their laurels though because we will continue to carry out checks."

Officers from the environmental health team routinely inspect food businesses in the borough and rate them in accordance with the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

Eighty-four per cent of Sandwell's rated food premises have a 'generally satisfactory' score of three or above, while 30 per cent of rated premises have a 'very good' score of five.

Apartments all-change

AN EYESORE property which has been the target of vandals has been given a new lease of life by being transformed into eight luxury apartments. Developers Rajinder Gill and Davinder Gill of Gill Properties took on the work on the Myvod Road property in a project assisted by Sandwell Council planning officers. Since being bought in August 2012 by Gill Properties it has undergone a major refurbishment, after years of vandalism, anti-social behaviour problems and disrepair. Following complaints Sandwell Council ensured the previous owner took steps to sell the property.

Call to owners of pub site after latest arson

The delapidated former Dudley Port pub in Tipton

DEVELOPERS behind a stalled £250,000 renovation plan for an arson-hit former pub have been asked to put up or sell up by a councillor.

The Dudley Port pub in Tipton has been empty for a number of years after a scheme to turn the building into an Indian restaurant hit delays.

It has been plagued by arson attacks, most recently on Saturday December 28. Wrangles over building regulations derailed plans to carry out work, despite the scheme gaining planning permission.

Councillor Syeda Khatun, who represents Tipton Green ward, said she would like to see the site revamped.

She said: "No-one wants to see grot spots like this in the area. It's far better to see buildings being brought back into use."

The pub's owner was not available for comment.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Focusing on a successful year at brand new school

THE FIRST cohort of students at the brand new Walsall Studio School and Sixth Form have experienced an action-packed first term.

Students aged 14-19 yrs have delivered live Studio Showcase performance events to invited guests, parents and local employers in the outstanding 400-seater auditorium.

They have also been amongst the very first to perform live to audiences across the UK (as well as partner schools in France) using the online TV broadcast studio within the school.

The studio school which opened in September 2013 and is now recruiting Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form students for September 2014 is located in the Goldmine Centre, Lower Hall lane.

The school specialises in Business Social Enterprise, Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts and Broadcast, Digital and Social Media.

During the first term students have hosted and participated in workshops and professional networking events with a range of local employers including Strand Hardware, Mid-Countries Cooperative and AF Blakemores who are also offering weekly work placements to students.

Challenge

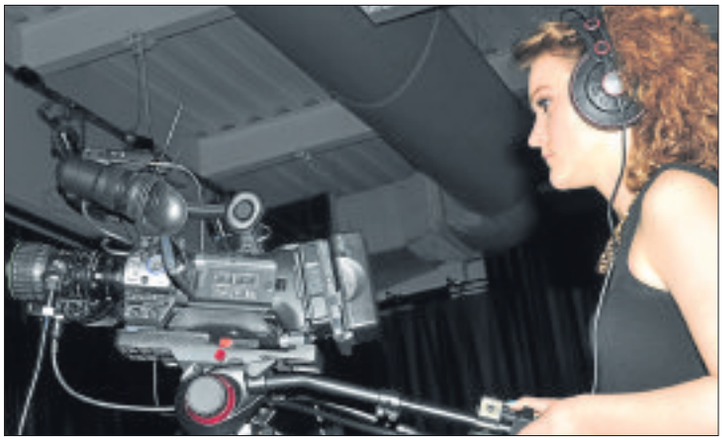
Additionally, students at the school have enjoyed the opportunities of learning from prominent national business leaders including the Chair of IBM UK and the Deputy CEO of Barclays.

Students at the studio school study using real live projects, where a real world challenge is met through students sharing their expertise and experiences collaboratively in teams.

This idea has been developed further with students sharing experiences with other young professionals outside of the Walsall – working with students in France, developing their language skills through Skype conversations each week.

Creative professionals visit the school each week to support, challenge and coach students in a series of workshops demonstrating what it is like to be a freelance practitioner. The school has real expertise in bringing together emerging creative professionals and young entrepreneurs.

Budding entrepreneur, student Keanu Chang explains his ideas to IBM chief Stephen Leonard



Walsall Studio School and sixth form student Molly Gibson operating a broadcast camera

Students at the Studio School understand that the Creative Industries and Business Enterprise need to work closely together.

The studio school prepares its students for the real world, so works to develop these practices from the very start.

With a strong Christian ethos and clear values evident throughout the school students are encouraged to invest their time, talents and effort in making a difference in their local community and across the world.

The school launched its Social Enterprise Academy in November as part of Global Entrepreneurs Week.

"Our students have the drive and the will to see social change. Our Social Enterprise Academy is at the heart of our curriculum, and our students have work experience placements with social enterprises to nurture their ideas." Dan Parkes, Principal Walsall Studio School

Walsall Studio School is a small, professional school for 14-19 year olds. It is renowned for its family atmosphere and focus on each individual student.

The school's unique GCSE, 2-year Studio Sixth Form and 1-year Studio Bridge fast track programmes enable young people to achieve industry-recognised qualifications, build relationships with employers and get into employment or university.

Walsall Studio School provides an environment where enthusiasm for business, creativity and collaborative cross-curricular teamwork drive new learning and prepare students for a broad range of exciting career pathways with a personalised learning experience for all our students in a close-knit family environment where we prioritise personal discipline, respect and care for each other and our community.

Students in Years 10 and 11 study a range of GCSEs and BTEC qualifications but also have opportunities to specialise in the vocational pathways that they are looking to build their careers within – namely Business Enterprise and the Creative Media and Performance Industries.

Parents interested in finding out more about the Studio School should contact the school office on 01922 621 951 EXT 321 to book into one of the open evenings each Monday 4.30pm – 6.30pm or later by appointment. Places are available for September 2014 entry for Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form.

More information is available at **wallsallstudioschool.co.uk**

Starting Reception in September 2014

Choosing a Sandwell school is a wise move. Our primary schools add more learning than any other Authority in the West Midlands and results in all of the primary key stages have improved year on year for the last 10 years.

If you require help or further information please phone the Admissions Parent Support line on:

0121 569 6765

If you have a child born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010 they are due to start Reception class in September 2014.

If you are a Sandwell resident and have not yet applied for a place please visit our website to complete and submit your application.

www.schooladmissions.sandwell.gov.uk

But hurry— the closing date for reception applications is:

Wednesday 15 January 2014

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Admissions and Appeals Service,
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annual_schooladmissions

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

ILO

NEWS

Fall in trade sparks fury over charges

TRADERS are up in arms after new parking charges designed to help shoppers have led to a decline in the number of customers.

Shopkeepers in the High Street, West Bromwich are angry with Sandwell Council for introducing parking charges outside their shops more than a year ago.

by Simon Stone

In November a new cut-price, short-stay parking charge was also introduced along High Street.

Its aim was to allow shoppers to stop for 15 minutes for 30p to help them complete small errands but traders say this has made things worse.

Joginder Purewal owner of Purewals on the High Street has spoken out on behalf of West Bromwich High Street Traders' Association to say they were never consulted about the charges they say are killing trade.

He said: "Business has halved since they introduced the charges.

"Why would someone spend 30p or 60p to park when they are only buying something that costs a pound? Especially when they can go up the road to Handsworth or Smethwick where parking is free."

The traders recently handed in a petition with the names of more than 50 businesses that opposed the parking restrictions and called for the introduction of half an hour free parking to help them out, but they say they are yet to hear back from the council.

Sandwell Council confirmed it has received the petition, adding it is now being considered.

Clean-up for museums

MUSEUMS are undergoing a deep clean as they begin their preparations for reopening in the spring. Sandwell Museums closed to casual visitors at the end of November and will reopen on April 1.

During the closure period, the museums are still open for a host of events throughout February half-term and at other times. They also continue to take bookings for schools and pre-booked groups and projects.

Jane Hanney, museum services manager said: "Dust can attract bugs and creepy crawlies that like to eat our collection so to protect them we have a huge deep clean."

Lighty-ing up for team

From left, Slimming World consultants Joanne Sleet, Trish Parkinson and Joanne Pincher with Paddy McGuinness

IT DEFINITELY wasn't a case of 'no likey, no lighty' when a group of Slimming World consultants met comedian and TV presenter Paddy McGuinness at an annual awards ceremony. The team, which runs weekly Slimming World groups in Sandwell & Great Barr, was delighted to get a chance to cuddle up to Paddy when he co-hosted the Slimming World Awards with the organisation's chair and founder Margaret Miles-Bramwell OBE.

Bolton-born Paddy, who shot to fame in Channel 4 comedy Phoenix Nights alongside school friend Peter Kay before becoming a popular stand-up comedian and TV presenter on shows including ITV1's Take Me Out, said he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Slimming World Consultant Joanne Sleet said meeting Paddy at the event, which was held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre, was the cherry on the top of a great year for groups in Sandwell & Great Barr: "Obviously the most important thing of all is that our members have lost weight and improved their health throughout 2013 and we're so proud of all of the slimmers in the area." To get your 2014 off to a super slimming start visit **www.slimming-world.com** or call 0844 897 8000 to find your nearest Slimming World group. – ends –

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COMMERICAL FEATURE

Parrys blazing the trail with luxury coach travel

AWARD-winning coach tour company Parrys International is all set for a bumper year in 2014, after customer power persuaded the Cheslyn Hay firm to continue for the next few years.

After 40 successful years Managing Director Dave Parry had announced his retirement and that the firm would close, but after a huge outcry from both customers, trade and hotel suppliers, he was persuaded to change his mind.

Now it's business as usual with a fantastic programme of coach holidays, short breaks and a full investment of more than £4 million in new, luxury Coaches.

Parrys International already have the reputation of providing the best touring coaches in the UK. This has been taken to a new level with in seat entertainment fitted to every Coach – the first touring fleet in the world to provide such a system.

Facilities

Complimentary headsets will be provided for all long haul tours and together with the other on-board facilities, they will provide the ultimate in luxury coach travel – the same as long haul aircraft.

Parrys operate quality UK Coach tours in association with big hotel names such as Hilton and Marriott.

Continental destinations include regular departures to Italy, Austria, Spain and Germany all with comfortable overnight stops each way and exciting short breaks to Paris, the Dutch bulbfields, Bruges and Ireland.

Coach travel can be so rewarding with all details taken care of by a friendly and professional crew, who can show you the very best of Britain and Europe in comfort and above all – complete safety!

Coach holidays are unique and represent great value for money with interesting itineraries, first class hotels and the ultimate in spacious, air-conditioned coach travel.

Parrys has just released its 2014 holiday brochure packed with new and favourite tours and popular weekends.

Once again the company will be main team sponsors of Wolverhampton speedway for a record 14th Year. This Sunday, January 12, Parrys International opens to the public with their annual open day.

There will be trade exhibitors, coaches on display, special offers and lots of interesting items including the management and a star rider from Wolverhampton speedway. It will be open from 10am to 3pm.

It all takes place at the Cheslyn Hay site, Landywood Green, off Landywood Lane near Landywood Railway Station. Other Coach firms have tried to copy or follow Parrys International but the Company remains one of the most respected coach tour operators in the United Kingdom and will remain so for some years to come.

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BAVARIAN ALPS	8	555.00
ST ANTON – AUSTRIA	8	475.00
SPAIN	8/9	445.00
MAYRHOFEN – AUSTRIA	9	595.00
PORTOROSE – ADRIATIC	10	635.00
LAKE GARDA - ITALY	11	645.00

UK	Days	From £
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HISTORIC YORK	3	99.50
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CARDIFF & ROYAL BATH	3	136.00
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We visit and include admission into Highclere Castle – The setting for Downton Abbey.

View the remarkable interiors used in the filming of the scenes and the extensive Gardens – Taking you back in time to this remarkable period.

Our day also includes a visit to the historic City of Winchester with its many attractions, Museums, Shops and magnificent Cathedral.

Dinner is included again at the Hilton this Evening.

DAY THREE
Our breakfast is taken at leisure and we then depart to the village of 'Downton', where the outdoor views of the Church and Hospital are recorded.

From here we make a Lunch stop at the Oxfordshire Village of Woodstock before continuing to the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon.
Admission is included to this superb collection of Motor Vehicles dating back to the start of 'Downton' Series.

We return late afternoon.

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star extra TRAVEL

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Botswana Safari and Cape Town

Beginning in Zambia, staying close to the spectacular Victoria Falls, the largest single body of falling water in the world, a sunset cruise along the mighty Zambezi on the African Queen will be the first spectacular experience. As the boat glides across this expanse of a river inhabited by hippo and crocodiles, simply relax in a wicker armchair and absorb the unique surroundings.

At Victoria Falls, a guided walking tour is included with other options to view the spectacular falls from either a cruise, a helicopter flight or from a micro-light aircraft.

On the Botswana Safari travel in a specially adapted 10-seater open-sided safari vehicle and see a wide variety of game including monkeys, warthogs and even leopards plus the chance to see cats, giraffe and elephants – it's an experience not to be forgotten so remember to pack a camera!

A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

The touring holiday ends in Cape Town. Take time to explore the excellent shopping and dining available, take the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and, weather permitting, visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years incarceration.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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Jerusalem

Galilee and the Dead Sea

Jerusalem and the Holy Land represent an extraordinary collection of both classical and Biblical sites unmatched anywhere in the world.

The ancient city of Caesarea is the first visit where a guided tour is included. Built by King Herod as capital of Roman Judea, it was the biggest port in the Eastern Mediterranean and today has a host of superb remains to explore.

Then it's on to the amazing city of Acre. Explore the beautifully vaulted and huge Knights Halls which are in a state of almost unrivalled preservation and display medieval European military architecture. A stop in Nazareth is then made to visit the great church of the annunciation before continuing on to Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee.

Crossing the Sea of Galilee by boat a visit is made to Capernaum, where Jesus lived, and nearby is Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Overlooking the whole area is the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount.

Surrounded by haunting desert scenery is the Dead Sea. Take a dip and bob like a cork – definitely one of life's must-do experiences! Then journey to the spectacular fortress of Masada, the site of one of the ancient Roman's greatest sieges and where the desert climate has preserved the site and the eight Roman encampments surrounding the fortress.

In Jerusalem there's so much to see and experience. Visit the Mount of Olives and the world's oldest continually used cemetery for a panoramic view of the ancient city, punctuated by the beautiful Dome of the Rock where Muhammed rose to heaven.

After touring the Garden of Gethsemane, enter the warren of streets and alleyways that make up the Old City. Visit the Western Wall and walk along the Via Dolorosa before finally arriving at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built over Golgotha where Jesus was crucified. The decoration here is astounding and contains the final five Stations of the Cross, the church is uniquely shared between the Catholic, Orthodox and Armenian churches.

A visit to the Yad Vashem is where the Holocaust memorial is located and the Shrine of the Book where the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed.

Finally, arriving in Bethlehem, visit the Church of the Nativity and Shepherd's Fields. It is one of the oldest churches in the Holy Land still in use and marks the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have given birth to Jesus.

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PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return flights
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- See Nazareth and the Church of the Annunciation
- Guided visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Visit the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall
- Visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity
- See the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Yad Vashem
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally

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NEWS

Cats call after 50 homes need to be found

THIS young cat was abandoned on a cold winter night – and is now in need of a new home. Animal lovers are hoping to rehome him and 50 others.

Members of Wednesbury Animal Sanctuary say a new year can often be their busiest time because of people struggling with bills. This cat, which they nicknamed Tommy, was found outside their premises on the Friday after Christmas.

Tommy has been neutered, and Joyce Clarke, who helps run the group which is part of West Midlands Animal Welfare, says he would make a good addition to any family. Anyone wanting to offer any of the cats a home can call Mrs Clarke on 0121 502 5027.

Joyce Clarke with Tommy, who was found outside their premises recently

Cash boost for green businesses is on offer

GREEN businesses in the West Midlands are being encouraged to start the new year with a cash injection from a new fund.

by Simon Stone

The final round of the Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme competition is now under way, offering between £20,000 and £1m in grant support to local SMEs (small and medium enterprises) operating within the green sector.

The Green Bridge programme, funded by the Regional Growth Fund, will provide financial support to SMEs within the West Midlands which are operating within the green sector and have the potential for significant business development.

Successful applicants will be able to use the grant to purchase capital equipment, expand or relocate to new premises, engage in new product or market development and develop management and staff capabilities.

Investment

A spokesman for the programme explained: "Applicants from a range of sectors will be considered for funding, including advanced engineering, aerospace, renewable energy, electronics and manufacturing, although to be eligible your company must employ fewer than 250 people.

"It must have a development and investment plan in place, be able to create new jobs or safeguard existing jobs as a direct result of the project and have a viable project qualifying for the minimum £20,000 grant, to be completed by March 2015."

Anyone whose business meets all eligibility criteria, is asked to get their applications ready and submitted by Friday, January 31. Detailed information on the application process can be found by visiting **www.birmingham.gov.uk/green bridge**

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

Do you have a good news story?

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TRAVEL

No mystery to city's draw

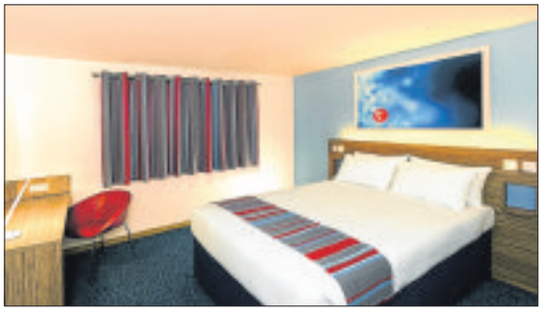
LOOKING to get away this Christmas and new year? It's not too late to book and you'd be sure of a warm welcome at a Travelodge.

The chain has spent £57million on a refurbishment programme at more than 130 hotels. The chain is even celebrating its milestone 15,000th refurbished room.

It is all part of a £223m brand investment with locations including Edinburgh, Southwark and Covent Garden, the latter particularly enticing, as well as Manchester and our own first choice of Liverpool.

It is five years since Liverpool was named the European city of culture but it still has a lot going for it, and as home to the Beatles, needs no further introduction.

The Travelodge at The Strand in Liverpool is ideal for the city centre



Travelodge rooms have undergone a transformation and feature cosy beds

Cavern

The Fab Four remain the biggest draw in the city and during our visit we ventured on a Magical Mystery Tour, taking in the childhood homes of John, Paul, George and Ringo, as well as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields.

There are stops for picture opportunities at the landmark locations, while the tour ends up at the Cavern, the Mathew Street club where the Beatles made their name and where their music lives on.

If you're lucky, you might even get, like we did, the brother of Holly Johnson, of Frankie Goes to Hollywood fame, as tour guide.

But it's not just about the Beatles of course. There is the Museum of Liverpool, Maritime and Slavery Museums, the Tate Gallery, Mersey cruises and the amphibious Yellow Duckmarine to transport visitors around the city sites. Lime Street Station is nearby and shopping is an experience at Liverpool One, and there's a host of eateries.

The hotel itself is the perfect complement with comfortable beds to crash down onto after a busy day of shopping or sightseeing, though parking can be tricky. There are no spaces outside the hotel, situated in the heart of the city in The Strand, despite waste land going spare to the side of the building.

Once inside, though, the views from our room were spectacular. Albert Dock is located just opposite and the Liverpool Eye was brightly lit up.

Following a survey carried out by Travelodge, customers requested above all else, a good night's sleep, so particular attention has been paid to giving guests what they want in the form of a Travelodge Dreamer, featuring a pocket sprung mattress and described as the 'Rolls Royce' of beds.

A double room is just £32 per night, with family rooms also available. And, on waking the next morning, what better way to start the day with an all you can eat breakfast for just £7.50. To book, call 0871 984 6156.

Mark Shipp

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Help is at hand for carers of sufferers

The Alzheimer's Society provides both emotional and practical support

LIVING with someone with dementia, or being a family carer who offers support to a loved one will at times be challenging.

You will see a person you care for change, they are likely to become forgetful and may well start to struggle with things that they have done routinely over the years, such as cooking or taking part in ordinary social activities.

There may also be other concerns which you will not have considered in the past; for example how to arrange for care services, which benefits a person with dementia may be entitled to, or discussing plans for the future.

At these times Alzheimer's Society has experienced and trained staff to help you. We have been providing care and support services for people with all types of dementia, their carers and families within the Black Country for almost thirty years.

Alzheimer's Society provides:

● Registered care services, based in people's homes, which give short breaks for carers and meaningful and stimulating activities for people with dementia helping them to maintain a level of independence and to feel less isolated.

● Dementia support workers provide emotional and practical support to carers and family members by helping them to understand dementia, to find coping strategies and to signpost or refer them to other organisations who can provide specialist help and assistance.

● A dementia adviser in Sandwell who works directly with people in the early stages of dementia to make sure they are taking an active role in the community doing things that they enjoy and are meaningful to them.

● Dementia cafés provide a safe place for people with dementia, their families and friends to meet others in a similar situation for information, support and social interaction.

● An information worker in Wolverhampton who delivers presentations about dementia to a range of organisations from community groups and schools to GP surgeries.

For more information please contact Alzheimer's Society Black Country office by emailing blackcountryoffice@alzheimers.org.uk or call 0121 521 3020. Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading support and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers.

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0121 588 7625
Mon - Sat 11.30am - 10.00pm
Sun 4.00pm - 9.00pm

If you're affected by dementia, Alzheimer's Society in the Black Country is here for you.

The range of services we provide include:

- Home care and support services in Dudley and Sandwell
- Saturday day club in Sandwell
- Dementia Support Workers – available in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton
- Dementia Cafés – operating in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton

E: Blackcountryoffice@alzheimers.org.uk
T: 0121 521 3020

Leading the fight against dementia
Alzheimer's Society

Alzheimer's Society operates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Registered charity number 296645.

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What's On! Sandwell

Red Lion will host Daredevils band

THE Red Lion Folk Club in Birmingham will be hosting Black Country musicians The Bushbury Mountain Daredevils along with Stourbridge blues singer Sunjay Brayne on January 15. Brayne has just come from a tour supporting Steeleye Span and recently released an album of him playing live

The club in Vicarage Road, Kings Heath meets on Wednesdays at 7.15pm. Northern singer and raconteur Jez Lowe will also be appearing there on January 22.

For more information visit www.redlionfolkclub.co.uk.

New venture for young musicians

A NEW venture is coming to the Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton.

Fiddle player Faye Brookes is staging the Folk Lounge at the Dunkley Street venue in Whitmore Reans, which is a platform to give young musicians exposure.

The event is on January 25 from 7.30pm and tickets are £5. For more information contact 01902 572090.

Lowings back for home ground gig

STOURBRIDGE group Kim Lowings and the Greenwood will be at The Woodman Folk Club at the Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford on January 24. The group is a collective of local musicians fronted by singer Lowings. Visit www.woodmanfolk.co.uk.

Magical snowman returns to enthrall new generations

The show will be filled with all manner of familiar and wonderfully colourful characters

THE magic of Raymond Briggs' frosty friend The Snowman has been enthralling young and old alike for more than three decades and now The Birmingham Repertory Theatre is bringing him to life once again.

The stage show, based upon the book by Briggs, will run at the venue until Saturday January 18.

The Snowman tells the magical story of a young boy's adventures when his snowman miraculously comes to life on Christmas Eve.

A glittering host of international snowmen and snow women will be joined onstage by colourful characters including dancing penguins, magical reindeer, a beautiful snow princess and her abominable beau Jack Frost and Father Christmas himself.

The Snowman first appeared as a beautifully illustrated picture book by Raymond Briggs in 1978.

Performance Times: 11am, 3pm and 7pm on Saturday 11 and 18; 2pm and 7pm on Friday 10, Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, Thursday 16 and Friday 17; 3pm Friday 17.

There will also be backstage tours on Saturdays 11 and 18 at 11am. They cost £5 (£3 concessions). Audio described performance and Touch Tours run on Sunday 12 3pm. Touch Tour starts at 1.30pm.

The magic of The Snowman

The shows are suitable for children aged four and upwards.

Tickets are£12.50 – £35 and for more information contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

Online booking: birmingham-rep.co.uk.

Music from both sides of Atlantic

THE famous Transatlantic Sessions featuring some of the biggest names from the world of folk and acoustic music is coming to Birmingham next month.

Musicians Aly Bain and Jerry Douglas have put together another collection of world renowned musicians from both sides of the pond including Kris Drever, Shawn Colvin and Mike McGoldrick among many others.

The show at Symphony Hall is on Thursday February 6 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £27.50 plus booking fee and for more information visit www.thsh.co.uk.

Folk founders in concert as a duo

FOUNDER members of award-winning group Bellowhead, Spiers & Boden, will be playing as a duo at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on March 18.

Double BBC Folk award winners for best duo Jon Boden and John Spiers will be coming to the venue on the back of Bellowhead's 10th anniversary bash.

Tickets are £16.50 including booking fee and for more information visit www. wolvescivic.co.uk.

Singer Sermanni set for Glee date

SCOTTISH singer/songwriter Rachel Sermanni is coming to the Glee Club, Birmingham on February 7. Tickets are £7 plus booking fee and doors open at 8.30pm. For more information visit www.glee.co.uk/birmingham.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 11.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Shane Richie

Reflex
BBC1, 6.15pm
In EastEnders this week, Alfie begins planning a trip to Australia. Is it because he's already fed up of being reunited with Kat – or did Shane Richie need a break so he could host this promising new game show? Yes, the actor is getting back to his light entertainment roots with Reflex, which as the name suggests, is all about reaction times. Each week, two teams of three family members will be tested in a series of challenges designed to find out who has the speediest reflexes. And that could involve anything from being fired into the air to responding to explosions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Good Cook. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross-Country. **2.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Dynamo: Magician Impossible.

6.15 Reflex. New series. Shane Richie hosts this game show in which two families battle each other in a series of physical and mental challenges. The first contestants are from London and Essex.

7.00 The Voice UK. New series. Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson join Tom Jones and Will.i.am as coaches in the return of the chair-spinning singing contest.

8.30 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers compete by listing as much as they know about given subjects.

9.20 Casualty. Lily and new doctor Ethan try to diagnose what is wrong with a teacher showing strange symptoms, while Zoe and Tess fight to save the life of Dixie's girlfriend.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Hull City v Chelsea; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** The Informer. (1935) **7.55 Film:** I Married a Witch. (1942) **9.10** Life on Earth. (R) **10.05** Life on Earth. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **12.50 Film:** Summer Magic. (1963) **2.35 Film:** The Go-Between. (1971) **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships.

6.00 Flog It! Contestants in Swansea hope a Moorcroft vase will beat their Hartlepool rivals' Clarice Cliff pottery at auction. (R)

7.00 Nature's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham investigates reports of fish "walking" out of the water in Florida, bees in France that are making multicoloured honey, and trees oozing a blood-red liquid. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring enlists an unusual recruit. (R)

8.30 Morecambe & Wise: The Curtains. Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the parts of the comedy duo's shows in which they chatted to each other – and their guests – in front of the stage curtains. (R)

9.30 QI XL. Extended edition. With Sue Perkins, Reginald D Hunter and Jimmy Carr.

10.15 Film: Burke and Hare. (2010) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Simon Pegg.

11.40 Darts: BDO World Championships. Action from the eighth day at the Lakeside Country Club.

12.30 Film: They Shoot Horses, Don't They? (1969) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Countrywise. (R) **11.45** ITV News; Weather. **11.55 Film:** Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) **1.55** The Chase. (R) **2.55** Boyzone at 20: No Matter What. (R) **3.55** Show Me the Telly. (R) **4.55** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.05** ITV News; Weather. **5.20 Film:** Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006)

7.00 Splash! Another line-up of celebrities compete for two places in the semi-final of the diving contest, under the tutelage of Tom Daley. Hosted by Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan.

8.30 Take Me Out. A psychic single dad, a bodybuilder, a train enthusiast and a children's party planner try to win a date with one of 30 single women.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host invites Hollywood actor Aaron Eckhart, ice-dance duo Torvill and Dean, funnyman Griff Rhys Jones and businesswoman Karren Brady for a chat. Kodaline provide the music.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Miami Vice. (2006) Crime thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx.

1.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 American Football Playoff Highlights. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Taste. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Channel 4 News. **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Engineer Brian Hodges hosts the penultimate dinner party in Nottingham and decides to rope in his local butcher to help out in the kitchen. (R)

6.45 Come Dine with Me. Barry Dickman hosts the final dinner party in Nottingham. (R)

7.15 Film: Crocodile Dundee. (1986) An Australian hunter with a larger-than-life reputation accompanies a reporter from the Outback to the urban jungle of Manhattan. Comedy, starring Paul Hogan and Linda Kozlowski.

9.00 Hostages. New series. A surgeon faces a moral dilemma when masked men take her family hostage and order her to kill her next patient – the US president. Thriller, starring Toni Collette.

10.00 Film: Wanted. (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman.

12.00 Film: House of Flying Daggers. (2004) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.20** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Countdown. (R) **5.55** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Slugterra. **11.00** Access. **11.05** Celebrity Big Brother: Live Eviction. (R) **12.30** World's Busiest Hotel. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30 Film:** Columbo: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) **4.05** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **5.05** Diagnosis Murder. (R)

6.05 Mr & Mrs Murder. Charlie and Nicola are called to clean up a crime scene at a golf club after a dispute between dog walkers and players results in murder.

7.00 CSI: NY. A teenager is shot in front of his younger brother. (R)

7.45 NCIS. A missing Navy lieutenant's car is found covered in blood. (R)

8.40 NCIS. A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous housemates' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to living alongside one another.

10.45 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Psychological analysis of the housemates' behaviour.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.05** True CSI. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarrn. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) **10.40** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Nasa – Triumph and Tragedy **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** The Bridge **11.00** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story

ITV2
2.30 Film: Curly Sue (1991) **4.30** You've Been Framed! **6.30 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.30 Film:** Tomorrow Never Dies (1997) **10.50** The Magaluf Weekender **11.55 Film:** The Interpreter (2004)

ITV3
9.05am Agatha Christie's Poirot. Back-to-back episodes. **11.00** Prime Suspect. A country club manager is found dead.

ITV4
3.45 Film: A Reason to Live, A Reason to Die (1972) **5.35 Film:** The Battle of Midway (1976) **8.10 Film:** Police Academy 7: Mission to Moscow (1994) **10.00 Film:** Firefox (1982)

E4
4.00 2 Broke Girls **5.00** Rules of Engagement **6.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00 Film:** What Happens in Vegas (2008) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Rude Tube: Epic Skills

Film4
3.10 King Solomon's Mines (1985) **5.05** Night at the Museum (2006) **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Ioan Gruffudd. **9.00** Dogma (1999) Comedy fantasy, with Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino. **11.25** Evil Dead II (1987)

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SUNDAY'S TV 12.01.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Simon Reeve

The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve
BBC2, 8pm
Adventurer Simon Reeve is getting out and about again. He's not long back from his jaunt to the other side of the world after his exploration of Australia, but you can't keep this man on terra firma for too long, so this time he's jetting off to Africa where he's looking into the stories behind our favourite beverage – tea. He's in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa, where most of the leaves for tea bags are bought at auction, before moving on through eastern Africa to meet some of the millions of people who pick, pack and transport it.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Moving On. (R) **2.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.45** Real Lives Reunited. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** Dolphins – Spy in the Pod. (R) **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Countryfile. John Craven and Helen Skelton head to Surrey, where he explores the countryside favoured by Arthur Conan Doyle and she talks to an artist with an all-consuming passion for horses.

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind. With Tony Livesey, Ava Vidal, Monty Halls and the Rev Richard Coles. Last in the series.

7.30 Antiques Roadshow. From the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich.

8.30 Sherlock. The consulting detective takes on master blackmailer Charles Augustus Magnussen, a man who knows the secrets of every person of importance in the Western world. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Newcastle United v Manchester City.

11.25 The Revolution Will Be Televised. Satirical comedy sketches. James and Barnaby visit Brussels.

11.55 Film: Cemetery Junction. (2010) Comedy drama, starring Christian Cooke.

1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.40 Film:** A Woman's Secret. (1949) Mystery, starring Maureen O'Hara. **8.05** Monty Don's French Gardens. (R) **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.15** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Coverage of the men's final.

8.00 The Tea Trail with Simon Reeve. The adventurer examines the tea industry in eastern Africa, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK.

9.00 Operation Grand Canyon with Dan Snow. The historian and his team conclude their recreation of the pioneering 280-mile expedition through the natural wonder that was led by explorer John Wesley Powell in 1869.

10.00 Film: Let Me In. (2010) Premiere. A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, with Chloe Grace Moretz and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

11.50 Snooker: The Masters. Stuart Bingham v John Higgins. Hazel Irvine presents action from the second match in round one of the non-ranking tournament at Alexandra Palace in London.

12.40 Snooker Extra. Mark Selby v Mark Davis. **2.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. Jac goes into early labour. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Sooty. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Inside the National Trust. **12.35** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.35** Catchphrase. (R) **2.20** Splash! (R) **3.50** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **4.50** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **5.50** Regional Programme; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Dancing on Ice. The second seven celebrities take to the ice.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes. With Paul Potts and Ann Widdecombe.

8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off. Two more couples leave the competition.

9.00 It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst. Compilation of clangers from the programme's history.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Birds of a Feather. Dorien discovers she has no money. Sitcom, with Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson. (R)

10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Mary Berry. The Great British Bake Off judge looks back on her life and career. (R)

11.45 River Monsters. (R)

12.10 The Store. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Will & Grace. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.00** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** 27 Dresses. (2008) **5.40** Deal or No Deal.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty present dishes for the weekend from their cafe on Southend Pier, joined by guests including athlete Usain Bolt, who prepares jerk pork. (R)

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan embarks on a mission to fly using muscle power alone, teaming up with engineers from Southampton University to build the fastest man-powered aircraft in the world.

9.00 Film: Fast Five. (2011) Premiere. A fugitive assembles a team of criminals for a heist in Rio, but the FBI's top manhunter is on their trail. Adventure, starring Vin Diesel.

11.35 Film: End of Days. (1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

1.40 Southland. (R) **2.25** Coming Up: Sink or Swim. (R) **2.50** How Not to Get Old. (R) **3.45** Secret Eaters. (R) **4.40** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **5.35** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Mio Mao. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** Slugterra. (R) **11.05** Access. **11.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **12.10** World's Worst Holiday Horrors. (R) **1.15 Film:** Holes. (2003) **3.30 Film:** Space Jam. (1996) **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15 Film:** Loch Ness. (1996) Family drama, starring Ted Danson.

7.05 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend. (2006) Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of BB life.

10.00 Film: The Switch. (2010) Comedy, starring Jennifer Aniston and Jason Bateman.

11.55 Hens Behaving Badly. A bride-to-be parties in Newcastle before emigrating to Australia. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.05** My Depression Diaries: Kerry Katona. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **8.35 Film:** 102 Dalmatians (2000) **10.05** Family Guy **10.50** American Dad! **11.35** Bad Education

BBC Four
7.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways **9.00** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **10.00** Timeshift: How to Be Sherlock Holmes – The Many Faces of a Master Detective **11.00 Film:** White Elephant (2012)

ITV2
3.30 Film: Step Up (2006) **5.45 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **8.00** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Holidays **9.00** The Magaluf Weekender **10.00 Film:** The Butterfly Effect (2004)

ITV3
9.00 Being Poirot **10.00 Film:** In the Name of the Father (1993)

ITV4
1.10 Film: The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943) **4.35 Film:** Horizons West (1952) **6.15 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00 Film:** Absolute Power (1997) **11.30 Film:** The Enforcer (1976)

E4
4.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The Tomorrow People **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00 Film:** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **9.40** Rude Tube **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.20** How I Met Your Mother

Film4
3.25 Honey, I Blew Up the Kid (1992) **5.10** The Truman Show (1998) **7.15** Post Grad (2009) **9.00** Coming to America (1988) An African prince journeys to the USA to escape an arranged marriage and search for a worthy wife. Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall. **11.15** Sixteen Candles (1985)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
300, ITV, 10.35pm
Leonidas, fearless king of Sparta, leads 300 of his finest warriors into battle against the vast invading armies of the ruler of the Persian empire. As the outnumbered Spartans fight for their country, his queen, Gorgo, tries to rally support for her husband at home. Fantasy action adventure based on Frank Miller and Lynn Varley's comic-book series, starring Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, Dominic West, David Wenham and Rodrigo Santoro. (2006)

TUESDAY
Disturbia, BBC1, 11.35pm
A troubled teenager is sentenced to three months under house arrest for attacking a teacher, and passes the time by spying on his neighbours. However, one day he notices something suspicious and becomes convinced one of them is a serial killer. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf, Carrie-Anne Moss, David Morse and Sarah Roemer. (2007)

Tropic Thunder, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.05pm
A director's epic Vietnam picture is behind schedule and over budget. Taking the advice of the grizzled war veteran on whose life the film is based, he drops the actors into a jungle with the intention of filming them fighting guerrilla-style – but the cast is unaware the surrounding warfare is genuine. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black, Steve Coogan and, in an Oscar-nominated role, Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

THURSDAY
Avenging Angel, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A preacher dusts off his gun after outlaws murder his wife and child, destroy his church and wreak havoc in the town. Turning his back on the cloth, he heads for the desert to begin a new life as a bounty hunter, only to return to the community several years later. Finding the villains are still there and causing trouble, he decides to make them pay. Western, with Kevin Sorbo, Wings Hauser, Nick Chinlund, Cynthia Watros, Fred Cross, Jim Haynie, Richard Lee Jackson and Joey King. (2007)

FRIDAY
Saw II, Channel 4, 11.35pm
The sinister criminal Jigsaw is preparing to mete out his deranged and sadistic form of justice on more hapless victims. Meanwhile, a cop is desperately searching for the madman and the gruesome prison where he is holding eight terrified strangers. Horror sequel, starring Donnie Wahlberg, Shawnee Smith, Tobin Bell, Franky G, Glenn Plummer, Dina Meyer, Emmanuelle Vaugier and Beverley Mitchell. (2005)

Pick of the Week

Latest case is far from elementary for Holmes

Take a deep breath Sherlock fans and prepare for the end. Yes, it's the final episode of the current run, and considering the reaction to the last series' finale, it's anyone's guess how millions of fans will cope.

There's a good bet Sherlock Holmes (Benedict Cumberbatch) won't be killed off – again, but how safe is John Watson (Martin Freeman)?

Has the sleuth finally met his match as he clashes with Charles Augustus Magnussen (Lars Mikkelsen), aka the Napoleon of blackmail?

He's a man who knows the personal weakness of every person of importance in the Western world, and Holmes loathes him for his most unscrupulous line of criminal business.

As ever, Steven Moffat has penned what promises to be a cracking instalment, and while we have no clue as to whether a fourth series will see the light of day, we can but hope Moffat and co-creator Mark Gatiss work their magic with the many other Holmes tales which have yet to be given a 21st-century spin.

Martin Freeman had a great time making the new series, especially during the first read through.

"It was good – it had a kind of familiarity about it, we had new people joining which was lovely," he explains. "Given that it was our third time, or fourth including the pilot, it just feels nice and familiar. It's always exciting because the scripts are so good."

Two years after he witnessed his best friend's death, it was inevitable John Watson would take time to heal before he could move on.

"His best friend had died horribly in front of him, which took a long time to get over, but the way that his life has moved on is that he has fallen in love with Mary," explains Freeman.

(Mary is played by Martin's real-life partner Amanda Abbington in case you missed their charming appearance together on The One Show before Christmas).

"He is leading a functional, normal-ish life really which doesn't have the highs and lows of his life with Sherlock but is certainly a bit more steady. But there is a sadness with John which will always be with him when you lose someone that you love – he is slightly dulled by life."

The last series was topped and tailed by a couple of standout episodes. Some fans think A Scandal in Belgravia was the best episode to date, while others think The Reichenbach Falls takes some beating.

But what is Freeman's favourite episode?

"I have to say the ones that we have just filmed have been brilliant," he enthuses. "Before that, probably Reichenbach was my favourite one to do because when we read it I was really, really excited and I thought the finished product was amazing. It was one of the best things that I've ever done and am likely to do for a while."

With good support from Gatiss, Una Stubbs, Louise Brealey, and Rupert Graves, this should either leave you amazed, and possibly a bit miffed if it's another cliffhanger.

Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Sherlock, Sunday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Go Hard or Go Home
Channel 5, 8pm
It's a brand new year, and all that turkey is still sitting heavy (according to the weighing scales at least), so it's little wonder our attention is turning towards getting fit again. And if you needed any more motivation, look no further than this four-part series. It sees ordinary members of the public taking part in some of the world's most extreme endurances races, with only 12 weeks to train. This is the brainchild of Hannah White, who's sailed the Atlantic three times solo and is a competitive long-distance cyclist, mountain biker and runner. In this first episode, she's training up four doctors before they face The Bonebreaker, a 127-mile bike race that runs through the high peaks of the Pyrenees, crossing the Franco-Spanish border twice.

Dave: Loan Ranger
Channel 4, 10pm
Dave Fishwick has already shown that he's got clout when it comes to matters of money, after successfully fighting the regulators to open his own small 'depository' in the Bank of Dave series. But he's still not satisfied because since opening his bank, he's seen first-hand how the poorest in society can become saddled with unthinkable amounts of debt after borrowing money from a new breed of moneylenders – payday loan companies. So Dave's on a new mission to help these people out, and tests out a selection of high-risk loans for people who have got into payday loan problems, offering them a preferable rate of interest in an attempt to get them back on track.

TUESDAY
The Taste
Channel 4, 9pm
Just when you thought every possible culinary show format had been exhausted, along comes another one to shake the genre up a little bit. Last week, viewers saw TV cook Nigella Lawson, food maverick Anthony Bourdain and chef Ludo Lefebvre hand-pick the contestants they felt had the potential to win a battle of the taste buds – their challenge each week is to create the most flavoursome recipe they can, with help from their famous mentors. This week, Richard Corrigan also joins in the fun by setting the first task – a prawn cocktail.

Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
ITV, 9pm
Paul O'Grady's not afraid to admit he's a big old softie. So it's only fitting that he'd be asked to present this three-part series in which he meets animals that have been orphaned in the wild in South Africa and Zambia. Our host learns that many of these animals – lions, cheetahs, hippos, elephants, baboons, and rhinos, among others – are in fact orphaned because of humans; either because their parents have been poached and killed, or their natural habitat has been destroyed. First, Paul visits SANCCOB, a sanctuary which looks after seabirds.

WEDNESDAY
The Restoration Man
Channel 4, 8pm
One thing's for certain; George Clarke could never complain of being bored in his job. The architect gets to meet people from all walks of life for this telly gem – which would be interesting enough – and takes a nosey into their renovation plans, often rolling back his sleeves and getting in on the action himself. This week, he meets fellow architect Neil Worrell and his partner Jackie Robinson, who are making a rather big commitment. Never having lived together before, they're now going to cement their relationship by purchasing an unused church in the picturesque fishing town of Brixham in Devon.

Finding Mum and Dad
Channel 4, 10pm
When many people think about adoption, they probably imagine taking home a new baby, who will never have known any other parents. But the reality is that many of the children in most need of a family are older, and that can bring with it a new set of challenges. In this fascinating documentary, we're introduced to Connor and Daniel, who as sibling boys aged six and four are already classed as 'hard to place.' In the past, that may have suggested they were destined to spend their lives in the system, but the authorities are exploring new ways to find children the stable homes they need. Filmed over the course of 12 months, this programme goes behind the scenes of an innovative new scheme designed to find potential mums and dads.

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Hidden Kingdoms
BBC1, 8pm
With the new year comes a wonderful new documentary from the BBC. The list of natural history programmes over the past few years is staggering, especially considering the quality of them. Three-part series Hidden Kingdoms is the latest and reveals the survival techniques employed by some of the animal kingdom's smallest creatures. This week, we observe the grasshopper mouse of North America's Sonoran desert. Despite its stature, it is capable of disarming scorpions twice its size, and its power and athleticism allow it to avoid rattlesnakes and tarantulas.

FRIDAY
Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey
ITV, 9pm
The actor most associated with his comic role as Tony in Men Behaving Badly talks openly for the first time about his infamous affair with Amanda Holden. He reflects on being taken into care when he was just 10 years old and reveals how Mel Gibson was happy for him to pretend to be his brother when they became drinking pals.

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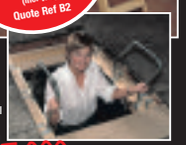
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Brain Gym

No.255

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

	14		19			3		22	3	24	11	10
18	2	25	5	24	11	16		26			2	
	5		6			24		15	25	22	20	18
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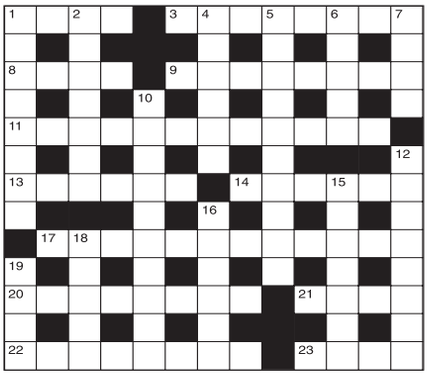
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 K	2 L	3 D	4 R	5 B	6 A	7 C	8 P	9 E	10 G	11 V	12 H	13 W
14 F	15 S	16 Z	17 J	18 U	19 Y	20 X	21 M	22 N	23 O	24 Q	25 I	26 T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Loud part of the play - and that's the truth (4)
3. Aromatic plant to sell in real variety (8)
8. Strains the affected person will give himself (4)
9. See 17 Across
11. Another stock market speculation - to control the rate of clothing? (12)
13. Three will show approval (6)
14. Provide with physical cover (6)
17 & 9 Ac. What the doctor with no respect for his patient may be doing (8,4,8)
20. Newspapers, maybe, for travelling attendants (8)
21. Box for a piece of the rigging (4)
22. Not allowing the current deposit to mount up (8)
23. Describing part of the Kalahari Desert (4)

Down

1. Those competing in it would wear running kit - jumpers would be out of place (4-4)
2. Red transport belonging to me (7)
4. Stir up a stratagem about nothing (6)
5. This study could provide a gloomy tone (10)
6. Crude monster is a fiend at heart (5)
7. Assess the charge (4)
10. Superficially covering too much betting? (10)
12. Edward takes in anaesthetic, strictly controlled in movement (8)
15. One who falls for the tourist (7)
16. The answer's a lemon! (6)
18. The way to defeat the East (5)
19. The man who is unable to get to the service would be (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Small inlet of the sea (4)
3. Bias (8)
8. Eminence (4)
9. Flag (8)
11. Self-contradictory (12)
13. Awning (6)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Begin (8)
21. Dam (4)
22. Lengthened (8)
23. Brink (4)

Down

1. Persuade (8)
2. Papal government (7)
4. Involve (6)
5. Make up (10)
6. Once more (5)
7. Orderly (4)
10. Examination (10)
12. Pickle (8)
15. Advance (7)
16. Elusive (6)
18. Ass (5)
19. Prevalent (4)

Sudoku

9	6					7		5
			6	1				3
3		4			5			
		3			2	5	9	7
	7			9				
5	4	9	7			3		
			9			2		6
		6		3	8			
2			4				7	9

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	9	7	5	8	4	1	2
4	2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8
8	5	7	1	4	2	9	3	6
7	4	5	3	8	1	2	6	9
9	1	8	2	6	7	3	4	5
6	3	2	4	9	5	1	8	7
1	7	6	5	2	3	8	9	4
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
2	9	4	8	1	6	5	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shipwrights; 9 Netball; 10 Farce; 11 Onset; 12 Siskins; 13 Mobbed; 15 Albino; 18 Trouble; 20 Oiler; 22 Okapi; 23 Stood up; 24 Penetrating. Down: 2 Hates; 3 Piastre; 4 Relish; 5 Gifts; 6 Termini; 7 Information; 8 Seismograph; 14 Brocade; 16 Look-out; 17 Teaser; 19 Bride; 21 Laden. QUICK - Across: 1 Thoughtless; 9 Dungeon; 10 Merge; 11 Lodge; 12 Settled; 13 Stress; 15 Reason; 18 Enclose; 20 Enter; 22 Crime; 23 Unusual; 24 Investments. Down: 2 Honed; 3 Useless; 4 Honest; 5 Limit; 6 Strolls; 7 Adolescence; 8 Leading role; 14 Ruction; 16 Execute; 17 Result; 19 Obese; 21 Trust.

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Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night from £139.95 Dine and Dance from £149.95

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance.

For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Departures most weekends

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.95

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £199.95

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Charming home with 200 years of history

A CHARMING period character property, believed to be more than 200 years old, is on the market in Sheepfair, Rugeley, near Cannock in Staffordshire.

On the market with Vision Estates the three-bed semi-detached offers spacious family accommodation for £279,000.

It is within walking distance to town centre and amenities and it is just a short drive to Cannock Chase an area of outstanding beauty.

There is ample off road parking for several vehicles.

Attached to this lovely home is an extensive workshop suitable for business/storage/conversion, subject to change of use.

Call 01889 574040.

£62,950 for modern apartment

THIS modern and stylish one bedroom top floor apartment is in Thunderbolt Way, Tipton.

The property, priced £62,950, has been well-maintained by the owner and provides open plan style living space with a contemporary theme, having accommodation to comprise entrance hall, open plan kitchen and lounge, one double bedroom and shower room.

The property has the benefit of having secure entry system into the apartment block and allocated parking.

This is an ideal first time buy or but-to-let investment and viewing is recommended by Swinscoes on 01902 672274.

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local agent national exposure
*Terms and conditions apply
JANUARY SALE JANUARY SALE JANUARY SALE JANUARY SALE JANUARY SALE JANUARY SALE

Contemporary style for this three-bed property

THIS STUNNING three-bedroomed home in Ripley Grove, Taylors Place, Dudley, offers contemporary styled living accommodation and has the benefit of uPVC double-glazing and gas fired central heating.

On the market at £152,950 it briefly comprises a reception hall, a guest cloakroom, a spacious lounge, a magnificent dining kitchen with a range of integrated appliances.

Upstairs there is a master bedroom with an en suite bathroom along with two further good sized bedrooms, a family bathroom.

Outside there is a garage and a pleasant rear garden that backs onto woodland.

Telephone Roden Boydell on 01902 881188 for more information.

No upward chain with town house on market

THIS two bedroom end town house in Bromley, Brierley Hill, is on sale for £75,000.

It has no upward chain and comprises lounge having stairs to the first floor, door leads into the kitchen having a range of wall and base units with work surfaces over, sink and drainer, space for appliances, door to the rear garden.

The first floor landing leads to two bedrooms and the bathroom having a three piece suite.

Externally there is a laid to lawn garden to the rear and driveway to the front.

Telephone Your Move Dudley on 01384 455000 to find out more.

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OLDBURY

Moat Road

An opportunity to acquire a deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant position within this popular neighbourhood, requiring some modernisation and updating but offering potential and briefly comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, rear verandah/lean to (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking, garage (requiring attention) and pleasant good sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £139,950

OLDBURY

Merton Close

A rare opportunity to acquire a spacious, considerably improved and delightfully presented, 3 bedroomed intermediate 3 storey town house occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position and truly requiring an internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, downstairs w.c, superb re-fitted dining kitchen (with integrated oven/hob), first floor offering delightful spacious lounge and good sized bedroom 3, and second floor providing 2 further double bedrooms and attractive re-fitted bathroom. There is a garage/useful store and rear garden with pleasant outlook beyond. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £124,950

SMETHWICK

Manor Road

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing, majority radiator heating, briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear vestibule (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £114,950

SMETHWICK

Dawson Street

A well presented, thoughtfully improved, spacious, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property, conveniently situated, truly requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, and briefly comprising :- Attractive dining room, delightful lounge, re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), rear vestibule, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £107,000

OLDBURY

WAS £199,950 NOW £194,950

Suffolk Close

A rare opprtunity to acquire a spacious, delightfully presented and considerably improved 3 bedroomed detached property, occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, separate dining room, attractive conservatory, fitted kitchen (having oven/hob), 3 bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), re-fitted shower room, drive providing off road parking for several vehicles, garage and pleasant, well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating C. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345.

Offers around £194,950

OLDBURY

NO UPWARD CHAIN

Broadway

A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated within this established neighbourhood and requiring internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower/wet room, drive providing off road parking, integral garage and pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating D. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £149,500

SMETHWICK

WAS £137,995 NOW £134,995

Thimblemill Road

An attractive, well presented and thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property in a pleasant position, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising: Entrance hall, delightful lounge, separate dining room, refitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC rating E. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £134,995

SMETHWICK

WAS £104,950 NOW £100,000

Fenton Street

Deceptively spacious, 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property convenient for local shopping facilities, having majority double glazing and briefly comprising :- Front reception room, useful cellar, rear reception room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating F. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345

Offers around £100,000

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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.10.2012

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Property

Detached home in sought after area

A FOUR bedroomed detached property in the sought after location of St Augustus Close, West Bromwich has a driveway and double garage.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley Esate Agents at £235,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has an entrance hall, downstairs wc, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, bedroom one (en-suite), three further bedrooms, a bathroom and rear garden. In more detail the lounge has a feature fireplace with an electric fire and patio doors to the garden. The kitchen has matching wall and base units with worksurfaces over, space for a slot-in cooker, overhead extractor and plumbing for a washing machine, while the utility room has space for appliances.

The rear garden is well maintained having a patio area, an area laid to lawn, mature side borders, a garden fish pond and a side gate.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley Estate Agents on 0121 5252111 or visit the website at **www.pauldubberley.co.uk**

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Mason Street, West Bromwich — NEW

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- , Well Presented Accommodation

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£96,000**

Meyrick Road, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- , Upstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£104,950**

Heath Lane, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Spacious Semi Detached
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating E, Three Bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£165,000**

Horsecroft Drive, West Bromwich

- End Terrace Property
- Alarm, Gas Central Heating and Double glazing
- 2 Bedrooms
- Energy Rating D, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£119,995**

Bury Hill Road, Oldbury

- A Well Presented Mid Terraced House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Energy Rating E, Double Glazing

OFFERS IN EXCESS: Viewing: **£105,000**

Temple Meadows Road, West Bromwich

- Tremendous Potential
- Extended Three Bedroom Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating TBC D, Extended Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£159,950**

Earl Street, West Bromwich

- Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Energy Rating, Lounge, Dining Room

OFFERS Viewing: **£115,000**

Dagger Lane, West Bromwich

- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, Block Paved Driveway

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£250,000**

Charlemont Road, West Bromwich

- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Garages To Side
- Spacious Rear Garden
- Energy Rating TBC, Double Glazed Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£320,000**

Spon Lane, West Bromwich

- End Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Potential To Extend
- Energy Rating D, Upstairs Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£95,000**

Seymour Road, Oldbury

- Delightfully Presented Property
- En Suite To Master Bedroom
- Four Bedrooms
- Energy Rating B, Superb Breakfast Kitchen

Viewing: **£155,000**

Heath Lane, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- , Off Street Parking

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£119,950**

Weston Drive, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- UPVc Double Glazing + Gas Central Heating
- Sought After Location
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating D

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£104,995**

St Marks Road, Tipton

- purpose built split level second floor flat
- in need of repair / attention
- leasehold
- 3 bedrooms, epc rating F

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£30,000**

Castle Road, Tipton

- traditional detached bungalow
- sought after location
- double glazing + gas central heating
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating F

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£134,950**

Sedgley Road West, Tipton

- modern end terrace
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- viewing strongly recommended
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating C

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£97,500**

Ferguson Drive, Tipton

- modern purpose built first floor apartment
- upvc double glazing + electric heating
- security entrance doors + leasehold
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating C

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£84,950**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Park Lane East

21 Park Lane East, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 8RD We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £57,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC D

Star Close, Tipton

- modern semi detached
- immaculate / improved accommodation
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating C

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£109,950**

Middle Meadow, Tipton

- modern purpose built first floor apartment
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- leasehold + no upward chain
- 2 bedrooms, epc rating B

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£65,000**

St Martins Drive, Tipton

- Modern semi detached
- Upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- Garage conversion
- 3 bedrooms, epc rating D

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£139,950**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Locarno Road

NOTICE OF OFFER Property address : 32 Locarno Road, TIPTON, West Midlands, DY4 9SH. We would advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £80,000. Any person wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Paul Dubberley & Co, 73 Great bridge, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 7HF - Tel 0121 522 3733. epc D

Dudley Road, Tipton

- modern 2.5 storey town house
- upvc double glazing + gas central heating
- spacious family accommodation
- 4 bedrooms + 2 en suites, epc rating D

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£159,950**

Hempole Lane, Tipton

- modern semi detached
- upvc double galzing + gas central heating
- no upward chain
- 3 bedrooms + ensuite, epc rating D

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£129,950**

Squires Walk, Wednesbury

- Sunstantial Secluded 5 Bedroom Edwardian Detached Home
- Very Exclusive Location
- Reception Hall with Parquet Floor

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£385,000**

Mounts Road, Wednesbury — NEW

- Extended Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- EPC Rating - TBC, Off Road Parking

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£130,000**

Wharfedale Street, Wednesbury — NEW

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden, Short Walk to

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£125,000**

Hillary Avenue, Wednesbury

- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Located in a Quiet Cul-de-sac
- Gas Centrally Heated
- EPC Rating - TBC, Double Glazed

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£125,000**

Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury — NEW

- An Immaculate 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain!
- Off Road Parking, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£110,000**

Wiley Avenue, Darlaston

- An Extended & Well Maintained 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£108,000**

Coronation Road, Wednesbury

- A Deceptively Spacious 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating: E47 Potential C87, Excellent Local

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£95,000**

Jockey Lane, Wednesbury

- A Modern & Extended 3 Bedroom Link Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£180,000**

York Crescent, Wednesbury

- A Traditional 3 Bedrom Semi Detached Home
- The Potential to Modernise & Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£100,000**

Goldby Drive, Wednesbury

- A Modern Executive Detached Occupying a Corner Plot
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing

Viewing: **£190,000**

Hydes Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- EPC Rating TBC, Off Road Parking

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£145,000**

Gillingham Close, Wednesbury

- A 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- Cul-d-Sac Location & No Upward Chain!
- Reception Hall
- EPC Rating: 52 (E), Lounge & Separate Dining

OFFERS AROUND: Viewing: **£135,000**

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- Detached Double Garage

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WHITGREAVE STREET
WEST BROMWICH
- Detached Four Bedroom House
- Four Reception Rooms
- 35ft Conservatory
- Family Shower Room
- Janet and John Ensuite Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- High End CCTV Security System
- Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Essential

£279950

GOLDBY DRIVE
WEDNESBURY

- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs WC
- Utility
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Detached Garage
- Veiwing Essential

£235,000

PEMBERTON CRESCENT
WEDNESBURY

- Detached House
- Four Bedrooms (en suite)
- Lounge - Kitchen/ Diner
- Utility & Guest WC
- Garage

£210,000

GOLDBY DRIVE
WEDNESBURY
- Extended 3 Bed Detached House
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge, Diner, Study/Office
- Family Bathroom & En-suite Shower
- Garage, Drive & Gardens

£189,950

JOCKEY LANE
WEDNESBURY
- 3 Bed Link Detached
- NEW PRICE
- Lounge
- Kitchen & Utility Area
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Essential

in Excess of £180,000

COMBERFORD DRIVE
WEDNESBURY
- Link Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Garage & Off Road Parking

£139,995

ADELAIDE AVENUE
WEST BROMWICH
- 3 Bed Semi Detached House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Detached Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

£129,950

HIGHFIELD ROAD
DUDLEY
- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating

£125,000

DARLASTON ROAD
WEDNESBURY
- NEW PRICE
- Newley Built 3 bed Semi Detched
- Family Bathroom & En-Suite
- DRIVE
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

REDUCED to £125,000

DURHAM ROAD
WEDNESBURY
- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom & Wetroom
- Large Drive

£124,995

ST. HELENS AVENUE
TIPTON

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Garage & Drive

£122,950

TAME STREET
WEST BROMWICH
- 2 Bed Modern Town House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Private Parking
- Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom

£120,000

UPPER CHURCH LANE
TIPTON
- 3 Bed Semi Detached House
- EXTENSIVE Drive & Garden
- Lounge/Diner
- Garage
- Downstairs WC

£119,950

JOHNSON CLOSE
WEDNESBURY

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- DRIVE
- NO CHAIN

£110,000

ADDISON STREET
WEDNESBURY
- 1 Bedroom Flat
- Ground Floor
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Double Glazing

£62,500

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Wednesbury
ALDER ROAD

- FOUR Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extensive Kitchen
- Large Driveway
- SORRY NO DHSS

£575 pcm

Great Barr
CURBAR ROAD

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached
- Excellent Condition
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£550 pcm

GREAT BARR
HARLESTON ROAD

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom

£530 PCM

Wednesbury
WILLENHALL STREET

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Wednesbury
COLEMAN ROAD

- Three Bedrooms
- One Reception Room
- Semi-Detached
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£495 pcm

Great Barr
WARREN FARM ROAD

- Two Bedrooms
- Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
SPROAT AVENUE

- Three Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached House
- Good Size Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
TAME CROSSING

- Two Bedrooms
- Entrance Hallway
- Canal Views
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Darlaston
THE WOODS BANK

- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Good Sized Bedrooms
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

Wednesbury
ADDISON TERRACE

- One Bedroom Flat
- Ground Floor
- Lounge/Diner
- Modernised Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 425 pcm

Wednesbury
ADDISON TERRACE

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- SORRY NO DHSS

£ 425 pcm

Great Barr
ALDRIDGE ROAD

- Two Bedrooms
- Flat Above Shop
- Entrance Hallway
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS ACCEPTED

£425 pcm

Wednesbury
WALSALL STREET

- One Bedroom
- First Floor Flat
- Shower Room
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

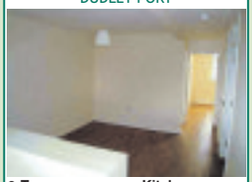
£ 400 pcm

Darlaston
BARFORD CLOSE

- One Bedroom
- End Terraced House
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS considered

£395 pcm

Tipton
DUDLEY PORT



- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Flat
- Seperate Kitchen
- Lounge
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 pcm

Friar Park
MANIFOLD WAY

- One Bed Apartment
- 3rd Floor
- French Doors
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£395 PCM

Stone Cross
PRINCESS GROVE

- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor
- Separate Kitchen
- Quiet Location
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 pcm

Wednesbury
MANIFOLD WAY,

- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 PCM

BILSTON
MAPLE COURT

- One Bed Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Secure Parking
- FULLY FURNISHED
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 PCM

DUDLEY
OLD COURT HOUSE,

- One Bedroom
- Walk In Wardrobe
- Close To Town Centre
- Integrated Appliances
- SORRY NO DHSS

£375 PCM

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NEW

Park Road, Bearwood

- Traditional End Terrace Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- In Need of Modernisation
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: TBC

Offers in the region of £149,950

NEW

Newbury Lane, Oldbury

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen Diner
- Generous Driveway
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £114,950

NEW

Beechfield Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Delightful Kitchen
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £92,950

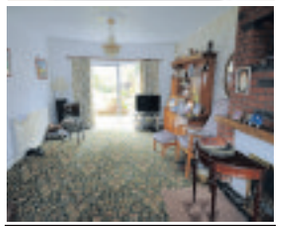
NEW

Pheasant Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £134,950

NOW AVAILABLE



Hurst Road, Smethwick

- A Charming Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- In Need of Repair
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £134,950

Milcote Road, Bearwood

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating: E.

Offers in the region of £164,950

Katherine Road, Bearwood

- Beautifully Presented Terrace
- Character Features
- Two Bedrooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £124,950

Park Avenue, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £89,950

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Charming Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Some Character Features
- Upstairs Study
- Interconnecting Reception Rooms
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £149,950

Park Road, Bearwood

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Stylish Kitchen and Bathroom
- Must Be Viewed!
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £139,950

Rawlings Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £119,950

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Incorporating Laing & Co

0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

NEW PRICE

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Beautifully Presented Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Breakfast Kitchen
- Viewing Essential!
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW PRICE

Thimblemill Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- Plus Upstairs Bathroom
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £104,950

NEW PRICE

Westfield Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- EP Rating: F

Offers in the region of £94,950

ONLINE AUCTION

NEW PRICE

Raglan Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Requires Modernisation
- No Chain
- EP Rating: F

Staring Bid £70,000

Talbot Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- 4 Piece Bathroom Suite
- Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Upper St. Marys Road, Bearwood

- Beautifully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £154,950

Eva Road, Oldbury

- Attractive Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen Diner
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £112,500

Park Avenue, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating: E

Offers in the region of £89,950

Abbey Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Period Features
- Through Lounge
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £137,500

Upper St Marys Road, Bearwood

- A Traditional Terrace
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Through Lounge
- Close to Amenities & Woods
- EP Rating D

Offers from £140,000

Eva Road, Oldbury

- Delightful Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Additional Utility / Verandah
- Established Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating: D

Offers in the region of £114,950

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WEST BROMWICH

Pingle Close

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this first floor maisonette in the area of West Bromwich. This property comprises of; 2 bedrooms, 1 reception room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, communal gardens and garage at rear and double glazing & central heating where specified. A viewing is recommended to truly appreciate this accommodation. ●●NO CHAIN!●● Energy Rating 72 (C).

OIEO £70,000

OLDBURY

Dudley Road

WortonKelly are pleased to be offering for sale this immaculately presented end terraced property located within close proximity to Oldbury Town Centre. The property has recently undergone renovation including A new bathroom, kitchen, carpets, and roof. The property in brief comprises of 2 reception rooms, kitchen and utility room to the ground floor, to the second floor there are 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom. Also benefiting from a cellar and rear garden area including store & W.C. Viewing highly recommended. Energy Rating 51 (E)

£90,000

WEST BROMWICH

Hydes Road

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer this well presented end terraced property in the area of West Bromwich. This property offers three bedrooms, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and central heating and double glazing where specified. ●●No Chain!●● Energy Rating 50 (E)

£94,000

WEST BROMWICH

Boulton Road

A well presented mid terraced property. Briefly comprising of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 67 (D)

£98,500

WEST BROMWICH

Vicarage Road

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this 3 bedroomed mid terrace property in the area of West Bromwich. This property briefly comprises of 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, a kitchen, a downstairs bathroom and double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating 41 (E).

£100,000

WEST BROMWICH

Ednam Close

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this well presented mid terraced property in the area of West Bromwich. This property comprises of; three bedrooms, two reception rooms, family bathroom, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing of this property is highly recommended. ●●NO UPWARDS CHAIN!●● Energy Rating 72 (C).

£100,000

WEST BROMWICH

Elizabeth Road

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this well presented semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen Utility Room, Conservatory, Cloakroom, Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and Off Road Parking. This accommodation also benefits from having Double Glazing and Central Heating Where Specified. A viewing is highly recommended. Energy Rating 55 (D)

OIEO £105,000

WEST BROMWICH

Mason Street

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer this detached house located in West Bromwich. This property comprises of; three bedrooms, an open plan style lounge/diner, a downstairs bathroom, a fitted kitchen, alarms, a garden to both the front and rear of the vicinity as well as offering double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is essential to truly appreciate this accommodation. Energy Rating 44 (E).

£110,000

WEST BROMWICH

Allerton Lane

●●REDUCED!●●

WortonKelly are please to offer for sale this gorgeous semi detached property in the area of West Bromwich. This property offers a lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, downstairs bathroom, good sized rear garden, large driveway and double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating 65 (D)

£117,000

WEST BROMWICH

Westmorland Court

Wortonkelly Are Pleased To Offer For Sale This Four Bedroom Mid Terrace Property. Briefly comprising of Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Upstairs Bathroom, Front and Rear Garden, Central Heating and Double Glazing where specified and Garage at rear. Viewing essential to appreciate the property. Energy Rating 75 (C)

OIEO £120,000

WEST BROMWICH

Jayne Close

A semi detached property. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, One Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Double Glazing and Central Heating where specified. No Chain●● EPC- TBC

£130,000

Oldbury

Moore Crescent

Semi detached property in Oldbury. Briefly offering; 4 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, WIC, family bathroom and rear garden, double glazing and central heating where specified. Renovated 3.5 years ago; replacement windows (guaranteed and with FENSA), complete electrical re-wire (with the Building Regulation Certificate), Boiler and central heating install (Building Regulations Certificate), cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom and cloak room. Also please note that the range cooker is included in the price. Energy Rating 49 (E)

£140,000

WEST BROM

Beaconsfield Street

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer for sale this well presented, semi detached property in the area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of; three bedrooms, two reception rooms, a family bathroom and fitted kitchen. This property also accommodates a garden to the rear of the vicinity and a driveway suitable for at least three vehicles to the front. Also benefiting from double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is essential to truly appreciate what this home has to offer. ●●No Upwards Chain!●● EPC-TBC.

£125,000

WEST BROMWICH

Holly Road

Wortonkelly are pleased to be offering for sale this immaculately presented end of terrace property, ideal for creating the desired perfect family home. This property comprises of; three bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner and down stairs bathroom. If this wasn't enough, this property also accommodates a garden to the rear which has a delightful Jacuzzi hot tub! This home also benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended to truly appreciate its offerings. ●●No Upwards Chain!●● Energy Rating 52 (E)

£125,000

WEST BROMWICH

Hall Green Road

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer for sale this modern, well presented end terrace property in the area of West Bromwich with the potential of being your perfect family home. This property offers a lounge, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, 4 bedrooms, a bathroom, front and rear gardens and double glazing & central heating where specified. Energy Rating 50 (E).

OIEO £160,000

West Bromwich

Heath Lane

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this deceptively spacious traditional semi detached family home with many original features, located in West Bromwich. This property comprises of; two reception rooms and a fitted kitchen to the ground floor. The first floor includes three bedrooms and a bathroom. This property also accommodates a garden to the front and rear of the vicinity and a garage. This could be your ideal family home and, in addition, benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended. ●●No Chain!●● Energy Rating 41 (E).

£175,000

WEST BROMWICH

Walsall Road

WortonKelly Are Pleased To Offer For Sale This Well Presented end terrace property. Briefly comprising of Five Bedrooms, Three Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Down Stairs Shower Room, Up Stair Bathroom, En Suite To Master Bedroom, Off Road Parking, Central Heating and Double Glazing. Viewing essential to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 74 (C)

£215,000

WEST BROMWICH

Whitworth Drive

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer for sale this immaculately presented detached property located in the desired area of Whitworth Drive, West Bromwich. This property comprises of four bedrooms (with the master bedroom having an en suite), two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, family bathroom, conservatory, front and rear gardens, garage and double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy rating 71 (C).

£220,000

WEST BROMWICH

Wood Lane

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this self built, detached family home located in the area of West Bromwich. This property comprises of; three bedrooms, one reception room, fitted kitchen, upstairs family bathroom, ground floor WIC, double length garage, rear garden and a driveway offering off road parking. This property also benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. Energy Rating 69 (C)

£150,000

WEST BROMWICH

Andrew Road

Wortonkelly are pleased to be offering for sale this well presented semi detached property, perfect for creating the desired family home. This property offers to you; three bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, cloakroom, family bathroom, conservatory, a garden to the rear and a driveway to the front. In addition, this accommodation benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended for you to truly appreciate this property. Energy Rating 4 (G).

£150,000

WEST BROMWICH

Haywoods Farm

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer for sale this lovely detached house located in West Bromwich, with no upward chain. Comprising of 3 bedrooms (1 with en suite), 2 reception rooms, family bathroom, cloakroom, garage and off road parking, double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is recommended to truly appreciate this property. EPC-TBC.

£155,000

BIRMINGHAM

Greenridge Road

WortonKelly are delighted to offer this immaculately well presented semi detached property located on Greenridge Road, Birmingham. This property would make an ideal family home comprising of; three bedrooms, two reception rooms, a modern fitted kitchen, a family bathroom, spacious rear and front gardens, a garage to the rear and double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is recommended to really appreciate the beauty of this home. Energy Rating 55 (D).

£165,000

WEST BROMWICH

Malvern Close

●●REDUCED!●●

WortonKelly are pleased to offer for sale this executive detached dormer bungalow. This property offers; three bedrooms, one reception room, kitchen diner, cloakroom, family bathroom, off road parking, front and rear gardens, garage with forecourt and spacious car port. This bungalow has double glazing and central heating where specified. ●●NO CHAIN!●● Energy Rating 48 (E).

£199,950

OLDBURY

Grove Road

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer this well presented semi-detached property in the desired location close to Warley Woods. This property offers; 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, a fitted kitchen, a utility room, a family bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this accommodation. Energy Rating 56 (D).

£200,000

WEST BROMWICH

Alexandra Crescent

Wortonkelly are pleased to be offering for sale this immaculately presented semi detached property located in Alexandra Crescent, West Bromwich. This stunning property comprises of five bedrooms with an en suite to the master bedroom, three reception rooms, a modern fitted kitchen, cloakroom, family bathroom, front and rear gardens with decked area to rear, off road parking and double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended to really capture the true beauty of this property. Energy Rating 74 (C).

£210,000

West Bromwich

Haypits Close

Well Presented detached bungalow in a desired area of West Bromwich. Briefly comprising of Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Front and Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Central heating and Double Glazing Where Specified. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate this property. Energy Rating 49 (E)

£215,000

WEST BROMWICH

Woodward Street

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this well presented, 3 bedroom detached property located in West Bromwich. This property comprises of; 3 bedrooms, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, conservatory, garage and allocated parking to the front of the vicinity. This home also benefits from having double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is recommended to truly appreciate this property. EPC-TBC.

£218,000

WEST BROMWICH

Hall Green Road

Wortonkelly are delighted to offer for sale this immaculately presented detached bungalow in the desired area of Hall Green road. This stunning bungalow offers 2 bedrooms, a lounge/diner, a fitted kitchen with island, utility room, guest cloakroom, bathroom and off road parking. In addition, this property has under floor heating and double glazed argon filled throughout with double glazing and central heating where specified. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this properties true beauty. ●●NO CHAIN!●● Energy Rating 74 (C).

£280,000

WEST BROMWICH

Harrington Croft

Wortonkelly are pleased to offer for sale this immaculately well-presented detached property in the desired area of West Bromwich. This property offers 4 bedrooms (master bedroom having an en-suite), lounge, kitchen/diner, cloak room, conservatory, front and rear gardens, a garage and off road parking. A viewing is essential to truly appreciate this accommodation. ●●NO UPWARDS CHAIN!●● Energy Rating 73 (C)

£290,000

WEST BROMWICH

Hollyhedge Road

●●REDUCED!●●

WortonKelly are delighted to offer for sale this tastefully improved four bedroom detached property located on Hollyhedge Road. This well presented property offers three reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms, two having en suites, family bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden . Viewing highly recommended to appreciate the quality of this home. Energy Rating 41 (E)

£335,000

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NEW

ST MARTINS DRIVE
TIPTON

EPC Rating - TBC

- Four bedroom detached property
- Lounge, dining room & Sitting room
- Fitted kitchen with utility
- Hot tub in rear garden
- VIEWINGS RECOMMENDED
- Downstairs WC
- Garage & Driveway

£224,995

NEW

MONINS AVENUE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating - D
- A two bedroom semi detached home
- Lounge & fitted kitchen
- Gas fired central heating & double glazing (where specified)
- Off road parking

£104,995

NEW

FARMER WAY
TIPTON

- Extended three bedroom detached home
- Lounge & Fitted kitchen
- Extended dining room
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Garage and driveway
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- EPC Rating: D

£149,995

FREE MARKET APPRAISALS - Call us now on 0121 520 2255

REDUCED

FIELD ROAD
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and family bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)

£139,995

REDUCED

CONSTANTINE WAY
BILSTON

- EPC Rating D
- Modern three bedroom link detached
- Lounge ● Kitchen
- Downstairs WC ● Family bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)

£167,995

REDUCED

PEEL WAY
TIVIDALE

- EPC Rating C
- Three bedroom end terrace
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC

£121,995

REDUCED

WHITEHALL ROAD
WEST BROMWICH

- EPC Rating D
- Two bedroom ground floor flat
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Refitted bathroom

£74,995

REDUCED

WESTON DRIVE
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Two bedroom semi detached
- Lounge & Kitchen
- First floor family bathroom
- Garage & Off road parking

£104,995

REDUCED

BADSEY ROAD
OLDBURY

- Four bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Front and rear gardens

£109,995

REDUCED

WHITEHOUSE STREET
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Two bedroom mid terraced
- Lounge & Kitchen diner
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
- Off road parking

£87,500

REDUCED

DUDLEY ROAD
TIPTON

- Two bedroom mid terrace
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs WC
- First floor family bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)

£99,995

JANUARY SALE

All these properties have been reduced for our January Sale promotion

REDUCED

FLORANCE ROAD
WEST BROMWICH

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heating (where specified)

£47,950

REDUCED

BROOKFIELD WAY
TIPTON

- EPC Rating D
- Four bedroom detached
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen and utility
- Downstairs WC and first floor family bathroom

£189,995

REDUCED

HENLEY CRESCENT
TIPTON

- EPC Rating - E
- Two bedroom first floor maisonette
- Lounge & kitchen
- Gas fired central heating & Double glazing (where specified)
- Communal gardens & parking

£54,995

REDUCED

FERNWOOD CROFT
TIPTON

- EPC Rating - F
- First floor two bedroom flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

£54,995

NEW

HOWARD STREET
TIPTON

- EPC Rating - TBC
- Two bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Lounge & kitchen
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Block paved driveway to fore
- In need of modernisation work

£119,995

NEW

QUEEN STREET
TIPTON

- EPC Rating - TBC
- Three bedroom semi detached home
- Lounge / dining room
- Fitted kitchen & Laundary
- Rear garden
- Block paved driveway to fore

£97,500

NEW

WAKE GREEN ROAD
TIPTON

EPC Rating: TBC

- Three bedroom semi detached home
- Lounge, kitchen & dining room
- Double glazing & gas fired central heating (where specified)
- Rear garden
- Block paved driveway to fore

£139,995

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connells.co.uk

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Call today to arrange your free market appraisal

Connells

Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

Maynard Road
Edgbaston £129,950

A ground floor two bedroom modern apartment with gas central heating and double glazing, comprising: entrance hall, lounge/kitchen/diner, wet room, communal areas and residents parking. EPC: B

Barleycorn Drive
Birmingham £82,500

A top floor apartment in a popular residential location, with double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge/kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom, communal areas and parking space. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: C

Patman Gdns, Gillott Road
Edgbaston £85,000

A one bedroom ground floor apartment with double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, communal grounds and residents parking. EPC: E

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £105,000 for 10 Stag Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 0QH. anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells, 122 Poplar Road, Bearwood, B66 4AP 0121 420 3611 before exchange of contracts.

Maynard Road
Edgbaston £84,950

A moderntop floor two bedroom apartment having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance vestibule, hallway, lounge/kitchen/diner, bathroom, communal grounds and parking. EPC:C

Rear of Eva Road
Winson Green £85,000

A well maintained two bedroom end terraced Victorian property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, garden areas to front and rear. EPC: E

Shireland Road
Smethwick £85,000

A mid terraced property in a popular residential location and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and two bedrooms. No upward chain. EPC: E

Merrivale Road
Bearwood £125,000

A two bedroom mid terraced Victorian property with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, inner hallway, kitchen, bathroom, gardens. No upward chain. EPC: D

Princess Road
Oldbury £142,500

A three bedroom semi detached property, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/breakfast, conservatory, cloakroom, bathroom, parking and garden. EPC: D

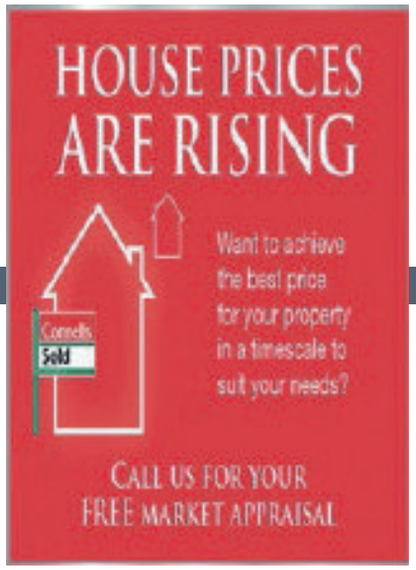
WANTED

More properties URGENTLY required. Please contact our Sales Team to arrange a FREE market appraisal.
0121 420 3611

Broadway
Oldbury

Semi detached property, entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, four bedrooms and bathroom, garage and garden.

More properties like this needed!



Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Balmoral Way
Rowley Regis £160,000

EPC RATING D - A well presented three bedroom detached property in a popular area close to local transport links. Briefly comprising, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room, downstairs w.c, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, garage and off road parking.

Queens Road
Smethwick £154,950

EPC RATING D - PRACTICAL FAMILY ACCOMMODATION SITUATED IN A POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA briefly comprising of lounge, dining room, cottage style kitchen, utility area, hobby room, three first floor bedrooms, family bathroom, separate shower room, family sized rear garden and off road parking. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Defford Drive
Oldbury £134,950

EPC RATING D - A well maintained semi detached property comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, conservatory, ground floor w.c, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom and enclosed rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Century Road
Oldbury £129,950

EPC RATING G - A three bedroomed DETACHED home with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of through lounge, kitchen, conservatory, first floor bathroom, shower room off second bedroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●VIEWING IS HIGH RECOMMENDED

Oldbury £129,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

26 Century Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4AS
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £129,950 on the above property.
Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is G.

Richmond Hill
Oldbury £99,995

EPC RATING F - A three bedroomed semi detached property where VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer and briefly comprising of two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom and enclosed rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ●NO UPWARD

Farm Road
Oldbury £97,500

EPC RATING D - VIEWING IS RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE this two bedroomed TRADITIONAL mid terraced property with some ORIGINAL FEATURES comprising of lounge, dining room, MODERN kitchen, ground floor bathroom and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ● IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME

Barrs Street
Oldbury £97,500

EPC RATING C - A well maintained two bedroomed mid terraced property briefly comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom and enclosed rear garden. Central heating where specified. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN●

Oakthorpe Gardens
Tividale £59,950

EPC RATING F - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A MODERN STYLE two bedroomed first floor maisonette having one reception room, kitchen, off road parking. Double glazing and electric heating where specified. ●A POTENTIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY●

Woolpack Close
Rowley Regis £58,000

EPC RATING C - A well maintained two bedroomed mid terraced property briefly comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom and allocated parking. Double glazing and central heating where specified. THIS PROPERTY IS A 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP THROUGH MIDLAND HEART

Tividale £49,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

EPC Rating E - Connells Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £47,000 for Flat 2, Ashtree Road, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 2HD. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells Estate Agents, 70/76 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4EB Tel: 0121 552 2671 before exchange of contracts.

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

50 Clark Road, Park Dale, Wolverhampton WV3 9NP

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £140,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is E. Connells, 81-83 Darlington Street, Wolverhampton WV1 4EX Tel 01902 710170.

King Street
Wednesbury £70,000

An ideal first time buyer or investment opportunity to purchase a modern style apartment benefiting from no upward chain briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing (as specified) electric heating, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen area, one bedroom, bathroom, garage, allocated parking space. Energy Rating B.

Manifold Way
Wednesbury £72,950

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style two bedroom ground floor apartment briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Curtin Drive
Wednesbury £72,500

A three bedroom mid terrace property benefiting from No Upward Chain and briefly comprising of uPVC double glazing and central heating (as specified), through lounge, fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. EPC Rating E.

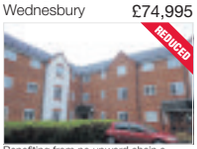
Old College Drive
Wednesbury £74,950

Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style second floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, reception hallway, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen area, fitted bathroom, two bedrooms, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Old College Drive
Wednesbury £74,950

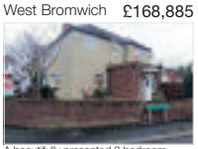
Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style second floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, entrance hall, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, two bedrooms, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Burrs Drive
Wednesbury £74,995



Benefiting from no upward chain a modern style first floor apartment briefly comprising of, secure intercom entry system, reception hall, open plan lounge with fitted kitchen area, fitted bathroom, two bedrooms, allocated parking space. Energy Rating C.

Griffiths Road
West Bromwich £168,885

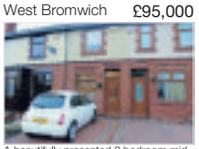


A beautifully presented 3 bedroom extended end terrace property,briefly comprising of central heating, double glazing, reception room, open plan 2nd reception area to dining area,fitted kitchen,downstairs cloakroom,family bathroom,detached garage, off road parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING F

Lonsdale Road
Smethwick £112,000

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property,briefly comprising of 2 reception rooms,fitted kitchen,downstairs bathroom,double glazing,central heating (where specified) NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING D

Greets Green Road
West Bromwich £95,000



A beautifully presented 2 bedroom mid terrace property,briefly comprising of 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom,double glazed and central heating, garage to the rear, off road parking,rear garden EPC RATING D

Winchester Road
West Bromwich £110,000

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of central heating, 2 reception rooms,fitted kitchen,first floor bathroom with separate WC,enclosed rear garden. ●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING E

Lower High Street
Wednesbury £82,950

Conveniently situated close to Wednesbury town centre, an immaculately presented three bedroom first floor flat benefiting from no upward chain briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, communal gardens, allocated parking. Energy Rating C.

Goldby Drive
Wednesbury £124,950

A well presented three bedroom three storey town house, having uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) open plan lounge with kitchen area, en-suite to master bedroom, bathroom, garage. Energy Rating C.

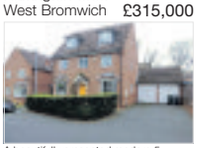
Arundel Avenue
Wednesbury £170,000

Viewing essential on this well presented three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) through lounge, fitted kitchen, ground floor shower room, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway providing off road parking. Energy Rating D.

Vicarage Road
Wednesbury £193,950

●BRAND NEW HOMES● An exclusive development of two BRAND NEW three and four bedroom detached dormer bungalows. Comprising of lounge with french doors to garden, fitted kitchen with a range of integrated appliances, two en-suite bathrooms and integral garage. Energy Rating TBA.

Harrington Croft
West Bromwich £315,000

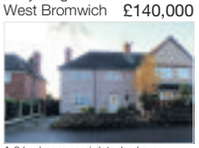


A beautifully presented modern 5 bedroom detached town house, briefly comprising of 2 reception rooms, spacious kitchen,master bedroom having ensuite,first floor bathroom,second floor family shower room,double glazing,central heating,double garage EPC RATING C

Davey Road
West Bromwich £68,000

A 1 bedroom ground floor maisonette,briefly comprising of double glazing,central heating,lounge,,fitted kitchen, bathroom,●●● NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●● EPC RATING D

Hollyhedge Road
West Bromwich £140,000



A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of 2 receptions rooms,conservatory,kitchen,central heating, double glazing,guest cloakroom,off road parking. .NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING E

Clarke Road
Wolverhampton £146,950

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of 2 receptions rooms,conservatory,kitchen,central heating, double glazing,guest cloakroom,off road parking. .NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING E

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Hill Top
West Bromwich £64,950

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property in need of refurbishment,briefly comprising of lounge,dining area,kitchen, 1st floor bathroom, NO UPWARD CHAIN.EPC RATING G

Stour Street
West Bromwich £85,000

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of double glazing and central heating (where specified), lounge, kitchen,conservatory, downstairs bathroom,rear garden EPC RATING D

Lellow Street
West Bromwich £94,950

A 3 bedroom semi detached property,briefly comprising of lounge,fitted kitchen,upstairs bathroom,double glazing,central heating, off road parking NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC RATING E

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

Property

Four bedrooms for house with detached garage

AN EXTREMELY well maintained four bedroomed home in Goldby Drive, Wednesbury has off road parking and a detached garage and is within walking distance of Old Park School.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £235,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has four bedrooms (master en-suite), two reception rooms, a downstairs wc, utility, bathroom and front and rear gardens.

For further information contact Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit **www.goodchilds-uk.com**

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www.bartrams.com

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- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Double Glazed

£117,500

CARISBROOKE ROAD, WS10 0JB

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Rear Garden

£99,950

HAYWOODS FARM, B71 3QT

- A Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Conservatory
- Freehold

£144,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold & Driveway

£94,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Freehold

£99,950

CROOKHAY LANE, B71 2NE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Large Driveway
- Freehold

£129,950

MARSH LANE, B71 2DP

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Freehold

£94,950

MARSH LANE, B71 2DP

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- Conservatory

£99.950

MEYRICK ROAD, B70 0JW

- A Modern Town House
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Garage

£144,950

WESTBOURNE ROAD, B70 8LE

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazed
- Freehold

£74,950

HOPE STREET, B70 6PL

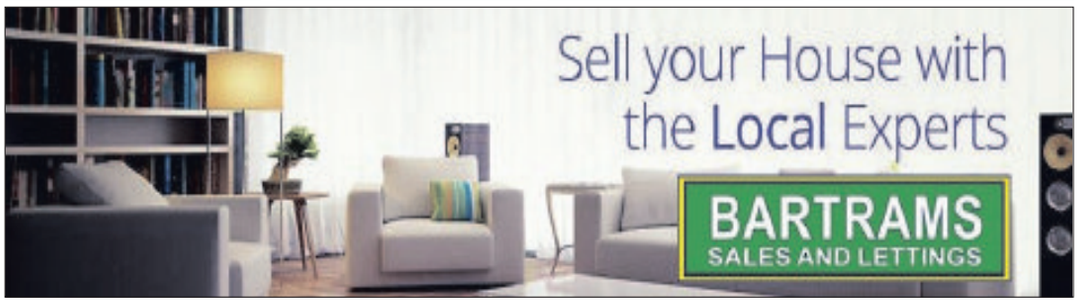
- An Extended End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed & Central Heating

£109,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BH

- A Detached Property
- Six Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Two Reception Rooms And Freehold

£299,950



GRIFFITHS ROAD, B71 2EH

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- External Double Glazing
- Vacant Possession

£97,950

BUSTLEHOLME LANE, B71 3BQ

- A Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- En-suite

£295,000

VICARAGE ROAD, WS10 9DW

- A New Build Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms, Two En Suites
- Driveway & Garage
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

£193,995

CHARLEMONT CRESCENT, B71 3DA

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating Double Glazing
- Vacant Possession

£164,950

ANDREW ROAD, B71 3QQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms, Corner Plot
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Garage, Driveway, Freehold

£154,950

ROBERTS ROAD, WS10 0LG

- An Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating And Double Glazed
- Off Road Parking

£550

WHITTINGTON CLOSE, B71 3EX

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Vacant Possession And Freehold

£109,950

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited C Reg 4757350
132 Walsall Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3HP
Tel: 0121 601 9370
Web: www.bartrams.com
E-mail: enquiries@bartrams.com

Property

Well-presented property with three bedrooms

A SUPERBLY presented and deceptively spacious freehold semi-detached property is on the market in Bissell Street, Quinton, priced £154,950.

It includes three bedrooms, loft room with potential for conversion (subject to planning consent), hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom and neatly laid out cottage style garden to the rear, with comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand and with internal inspection to be appreciated.

Call Derek Spires on 0121 420 4646.

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• Secured Gated Entrance
• Lovely Original Features
• Landscaped Rear Garden

£464,950

St Augustus Close West Bromwich

• Undisturbed views of Sandwell Valley Park
• Large Driveway
• Converted Garage
• Four Good Sized Bedrooms

£280,000

Thorncroft Way Walsall

• Spacious Lounge
• Detached Home
• Garage
• Great for a growing family

£229,950

Bridle Grove West Bromwich

• Detached Property
• Converted Garage into additional Lounge
• Conservatory
• Downstairs WC

£219,950

Beauchamp Av Hands Wood

• An Impressive Extension Living Area
• Three Bedrooms
• Downstairs Shower Room
• Attractive Lawned Rear Garden

£189,950

Silvertrees Road Tipton

• Four Bedroom Modern Detached
• Nicely Fitted Kitchen
• Seperate Lounge & Dining Area
• Front & Rear Well Kept Gardends

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Macdonald Close Tividale

• Planning Permisson for an extention
• Double Garage
• Beautiful Rear Garden
• Modern Kitchen

£189,950

Titford Road Oldbury

• Large Gated Driveway To The Side
• End Terrace With Four Large Bedrooms
• Three Goodsized Reception Rooms
• Beautifully Landscaped Rear Garden

£179,950

Dudley Road East Tividale

• New Build Detached Family House
• Four Good Sized Bedrooms
• Two Goodsized Reception Rooms
• Garage & Front Driveway

£169,950

Anchor Crescent Hockley

• End Terrace Town House
• Four Spacious Bedroom on Two Floors
• Open Kitchen/Diner with Utility Room
• Close Proximity Of Birmingham City Centre

£165,000

Causeway Green Road Oldbury

• Modern Extended Four Bedroom Family Home
• Open Plan Spacious Kitchen/Utility And Diner
• New Driveway and Large Garden
• Ground Floor Bedroom with Shower Room

£159,950

William Kerr Road Tipton

• Detached Three Bedroom Family Home
• Leasehold Property
• Large Open Plan Lounge Looking Out To The Garden
• Located in a quite cul-de-sac

£139,950

Oxhill Road Handsworth

• Three Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home
• Spacious Modern House Throughout
• Benefiting Driveway and Outhouse
• Refurbished Modern Kitchen and Bathroom

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Spring Parklands Dudley

• Detached Home
• Cul De Sac
• Garage
• Three Good Bedrooms

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Talbot Street Hockley

• Much Improved Internally Three Bedroom House
• Extremely close to the Birmingham City
• Perfect for First Time Buyers
• Modern Fixtures and Fittings Throughout

£114,950

Hilltop West Bromwich

• Detached Four Bedroom Property
• Two Spacious Reception Rooms
• Kitchen with Breakfast Bar
• Tenanted Achieving £650pcm

£154,950

St Catherines Close Dudley

• Reduced by 14K
• Three Bedroom Semi Detached Home
• Potential to Extend and Located on a cul-de-sac
• Open Plan Kitchen/Diner

£105,000

Little Lane West Bromwich

• Opposite Sandwell Hospital
• Refurbished internally to a good standard
• Spacious Property Three Bedroom Terrace
• Two Reception Rooms with High Ceilings

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Greenwood Avenue Oldbury

• Fully refurbished semi detached family home
• New driveway to fit up to two cars
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• Downstair Guest W.C

£107,950

Macdonald Close Tividale

• Semi-detached town house comprising three floors
• Three double bedrooms
• Three bathrooms
• Spacious lounge

£650

Terrace Street Wednesbury

• Modern semi-detached family home
• Large extended modern kitchen
• Family bathroom with seperate shower and jacuzzi
• Fabulous rear and front garden

£650

St Michaels Way Tipton

• Semi Detached Three Bedroom Property
• Driveway with Garage and front garden
• Three good-sized bedrooms
• Spacious landscaped garden

£595

Addington Way Tividale

• Modern Build Three Bedroom House
• Modern Open Plan Kitchen
• Landscaped Enclosed Rear Garden
• Neutrally Decorated Throughout

£560

Little Lane West Bromwich

• Three good sized bedrooms
• Two reception rooms
• Suited for Professionals only
• Parking via permit

£550

Parkside Close Wednesbury

• Semi Detached Family Home
• Three Good Sized Bedrooms With Fitted Wardrobes
• Two Reception Rooms
• Downstairs W.C

£525

Ivy House Road Oldbury

• Semi Detached Residence
• Modern Kitchen
• Two Double Bedrooms and One Single Bedroom
• Modern and Clean Decor Throughout

£550

Beakes Road Bearwood

• Three Bedroom Terraced Residence
• Very Spacious Bedrooms
• Neutral Decor Throughout
• Large Rear Garden

£550

Woodstock Road Handsworth

• Two reception rooms
• Newly fitted kitchen with appliances
• 1 Minute walk from Handsworth Grammar School
• Rear Garden

£550

Great Bridge Road Bilston

• Large Driveway To The Front
• Newly Fitted Kitchen With Appliances
• Two Spacious Reception Rooms
• New Fitted Modern Bathroom

£525

Emily Street West Bromwich

• Within walking distance of local amenities
• Spacious two reception rooms
• Two double bedrooms
• Neutal decor throughout bringing in ample light

£495

Broadwaters Road Wednesbury

• Driveway
• Large Rear garden
• Central Heating
• Minutes from Holyhead Primary School

£525

Bell Street Tipton

• New build apartment
• Two bedrooms
• Spacious Open Plane Kitchen/Lounge
• Allocated Parking

£475

Dudley Road

• NEW BUILD development
• TWO SPACIOUS bedrooms
• Bedroom with EN-SUITE
• Seperate FAMILY bathroom

£450

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

A workhorse not a 4x4 posing Chelsea tractor

Drive time with Graham Breeze

IF YOU are one of those looking to pose outside the school gate in a gleaming 4X4 the Land Rover Defender is not for you.

Because the defender is no show pony. In fact it's quite the opposite – the finest 4x4 workhorse you are likely to encounter.

There's very little finery about this model. In fact apart from a few cosmetic makeovers the Defender is just as it was decades ago when I cut my teeth as a budding driver on the farm tracks and fields near my home.

And that's been the strength of this British icon so I have to question why Land Rover are trying to strengthen its appeal with gimmicks such as seat design and sound systems.

The defender was born to be a workhorse and while I can understand the desire to personalise your vehicle with the contrasting roof colours that are now available I see no need for anything else.

Customers seeking a higher level of specification can now enhance their vehicle with three additional options and a choice of two new exterior body colours, Barolo Black and Havana.

Smart new, contrast roof colours can now be chosen against the majority of the Defender paint palette. In addition to the standard Fuji White, customers can now opt for Santorini Black, Indus Silver, Orkney Grey or Firenze Red.

If you want to impress at the school gates this is not for you

The Defender will easily cross a desert or climb a mountain

Land Rover has tweaked the dash

The Firenze Red can be chosen with the Santorini Black roof and the Baltic Blue with Indus Silver or simply retain their body colour.

Premium part leather seats which contour your body are available to the driver and front seat passenger, sporting the Land Rover logo on the backrest. But it's the EU5 2.2-litre diesel engine, which replaced the EU4 2.4-litre diesel in 2012, matching it for power, torque and fuel consumption that really counts when it comes to performance.

The engine produces 122PS@3,500rpm and torque of 360Nm@2,000rpm, giving a 0-60mph time of 14.7 seconds and a top speed of 90mph. CO2 emissions on the combined cycle are 266g/km. The GFT MT 82 six-speed gearbox has an excellent ratio spread, high top gear for cruising and enhanced low-speed crawl capability. The lower first gear offers low crawl speed making towing on-road and off-road much easier. The low-down engine torque also helps in-gear acceleration and the tall sixth gear ensures excellent real-world cruising, refinement and fuel economy. Land Rover has tweaked the dash and improved seating over the years but you could never describe the Defender as comfortable. It's an extremely hard drive, you still need "Popeye" size muscles when parking while front seats seem too close to the doors leaving little space for the driver's right arm yet there is a vast space between driver and passenger.

If you want to cross a desert, climb a mountain or negotiate difficult farmland the Defender is for you. If you want to pose and impress at the wheel of a 4X4 look elsewhere.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

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Call 08430 223040 or visit www.brindleyhonda.co.uk

Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 23.2 – 70.6 (12.2 - 4.0), Extra Urban 40.4 – 85.6 (7.0 - 3.3), Combined 32.5 - 78.5 (8.7 - 3.6). CO_2 emissions 201 - 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

Models Shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in optional Passion Red Pearl. **Terms and Conditions:** Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual and Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual, £999 Advanced Payment offer on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2014 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY. (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY

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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.6 LS: Urban 31.4, Extra-Urban 51.4, Combined 41.5, CO_2 159 g/km and for the Orlando 1.8 LS: Urban 30.7, Extra-Urban 49.5, Combined 40.3, CO_2 164 g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and a Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LS. Vehicles shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Saving shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Saving based on a (trim and engine) Model Year 14 Cruze and Model Year 14 Orlando. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Prices correct at time of print. Valid for retail registrations only. At participating Dealers only. Offer ends 31st March 2014.

Motoring

The Volkswagen e-Up city car. With an on-the-road price of £19,250, it is capable of 81mph

Prices are confirmed for all-electric city car

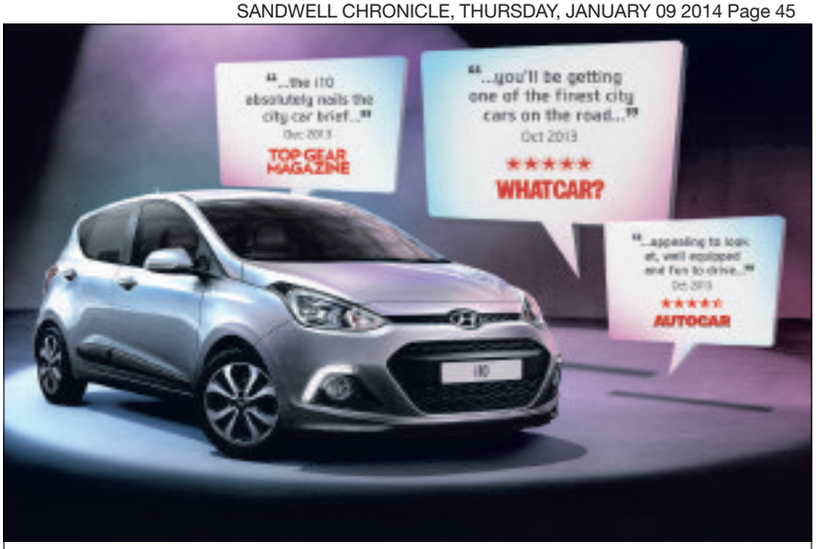
VOLKSWAGEN has confirmed UK pricing for the all-electric e-Up city car, with deliveries expected by the end of January 2014.

After accounting for the £5,000 government grant towards plug-in electric vehicles, the e-Up will cost from £19,250 on the road, which is more than double the price tag of a mid-range petrol-powered Up. The car, which is capable of 81mph thanks to an 81bhp electric motor, can theoretically achieve more than 90 miles on a single charge, although owners are more likely to get around 70 with careful use.

Its performance exceeds that of the petrol Up, though, with a 0-62mph time of 12.4 seconds and, crucially, a 0-30mph time of around four seconds.

A DC fast-charging circuit will be supplied as standard, enabling the e-Up to charge from flat to 80 per cent in 30 minutes, but a conventional three-pin wall charger will also be offered as an option.

The e-Up's extra equipment includes a heated windscreen, DAB digital radio with six-speaker Sound Pack, City Emergency Braking system, rear parking sensors and an electronic climate control system.



New Generation i10

If it had ears, they would be burning

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High praise indeed from the big names in the motoring press. And they're not the only ones being complimentary about the New Generation i10. Available from 30th January 2014, it won't be long before you can have your say.

To find out more about the city car everyone's talking about, visit www.brindleyhyundai.co.uk

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 65.7 (4.3), CO2 Emissions 142 – 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.#

Finance available on selected models only. Subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Finance supplied by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-60 month term. **Vauxhall Deposit Contributions vary and exclude Mokka and other selected models. †Fuel offer not available on Zafira, other exclusions apply. £500 free fuel will be paid via pre-paid debit card. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/offers or contact your local Vauxhall retailer for details. Offer will apply to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24. All other customers are excluded. ‡First year insurance offer available on new Corsa models (excluding Expression, S, Sting, Design and VXR). The offer will cover the full premium (motor policy only) for drivers aged between 21-75. Drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Terms and Conditions apply. Offer applies to private individuals and Vauxhall Partners. All other customers are excluded. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and Conditions apply. Offers available on new vehicle orders between 27 December 2013 and 13 January 2014. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

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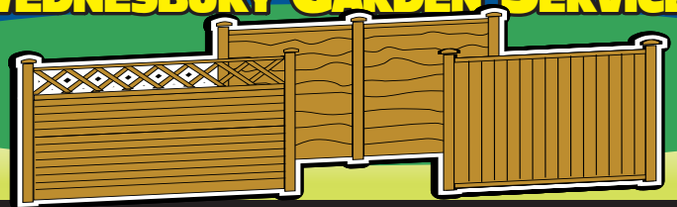

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over road from new Tesco, 100 mtrs past Toby.
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LEATHER THREE-PIECE SUITE, wine colour, 3 seater and 2 chairs, excellent condition, £300. Telephone 07525 023244.

MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS Double, brand new, never used. 10" thick, air flow system, still in packaging. RRP £599. Bargain at £130. 07450 887796. Can deliver.

SUE RYDER NEW Charity shop open 27th Sep, Cannock. Need donations urgently. 01827 310963

THREE PIECE Cream leather suite, 3, 2 and 1 seater, fully reclines. £475. 07948 340101.

THREE PIECE suite, red, dark wood down arms, very good condition, £100 for quick sale. 0121 556 0901.

household appliances

A BIG BIG SALE on cookers, fires, autos, fridge-freezer, built in ovens, hobbs, tumble dryers, twin tubs. Orders taken by phone. Past & Present 24-26 Church St Bilston (Opposite Town Hall). 01902 403770.

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items for sale

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items wanted

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Best prices paid.
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pc's, laptops & accessories

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Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
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4 Pets & Animals

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vets

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pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES, ready now, £150. 07531 683954.

GOLDEN COCKER SPANIEL 10 wk old boy, vaccinated, sad sale due to allergy, £300. 07836 568903.

YORKSHIRE TERRIER pups, 3 boys, 1 girl, parents can be seen, £300. 01902 682296.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

commercial premises

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6 Property

properties wanted

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

FLAT SHARE with one male, quiet residential area. Cannock. Off road parking, bills inc. 01543 279435.

FLAT TO LET. 3 bed, DG, CH, Rushall. 3 bed house to let, DG, CH. Rushall. 07405 465578.

FLATS, OLDBURY Small 1-bed, Tipton 1-bed, DSS considered. Call / Text 07779 615293.

RUGELEY 2 bed terrace, parking, intergrated fridge freezer, washing machine, NS, no pets, no DSS. £500pcm. 07817 598321.

RUGELEY Brereton, 3 bed house, £550pcm, reference + deposit, no pets/smokers. 01889 800136.

THREE BED Semi, Bloxwich, £125 p/w. Parking. DG. GCH. Garden. Alarm. N/S or Pets. 078300 38188.

TIPTON 2x excellent 1 bed flats, quiet Cul-de-sac, off road parking, recently decorated, £350pcm, no dss. 01902 750941, 07771 424661.

TWO BEDROOM semi detached bungalow, with CH and DG, new curtains and carpets throughout, Burntwood area, £600pcm. 01543 673068 or 07879 021110.

7 Jobs

courses

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8 Motoring

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Semi-Auto, 04, black, 25,000 miles, F.S.H, E/W, C/D and radio, very good condition, 7 months MoT
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MUST BE SEEN

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7 seater. Side steps fitted.
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accept £4,700 ono.
07963 558496.

MERCEDES C CLASS Coupe, 2003, green, 74,000 miles, Air con, MoT November 2014, £2,200 ono. 07956 939291.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport. 2008, red, tax and MoT'd, excellent condition, bargain. £2,650. 07977 737193. Cannock.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 2008, silver, taxed, MoT'd, excellent condition, new tyres, £2,650 ono. 07563 326824.

VAUXHALL VEXTRA 1.9 CDTi, SRi, 08, beige, FSH, EW CL, alloys, MoT, 81k, immaculate, £3,600ono. 01922 613104. 07747 834567.

cars under £1500

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FORD KA2 2000 reg, full 1 year MoT, taxed, CD. power steering, alloys. Immaculate condition. Must be seen. £600. 07908 240171.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC 1.8 ESTATE
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£1,495 ono.
07920 281763.

PEUGEOT 206LX 5 dr, automatic, silver, 2003 model, very low mileage, Sony cd player, MoT/tax, cl, all elec. £995. 07932 603236.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE
3 door, 2004, silver, 10 months MoT, 4 months tax, alloy wheels, very good condition, must sell.
£1,000 ono.
07890 334748.

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VAUXHALL ASTRA ENVOY DTi van, 03 reg, MoT April 14, steero, silver. Nice condition, £750. 07570 466779.

commercial vehicles

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This application is for a Listed Building within a Conservation Area.

DC/13/56602	Mr Anthony Bowen Amphion Construction Limited	Rounds Wharf Castle Street Tipton DY4 8BF	Listed building consent for proposed 15 No. flats, 4 No. town houses and conversion of existing house into 4 No. flats. (minor amendment to DC/05/45531 – including internal/external alterations and extraction vents).

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan in force in the area in which it is situated.

This is a major application.

DC/13/56615	Lotra Limited	Norbert Dentressangle Doulton Road Rowley Regis B65 8JG	Demolition of all existing on-site buildings and structures and redevelopment to provide up to 218 residential units and a retail development (Use Class A1 shops) with a gross external floorspace of up to 432m2, together with associated works, (outline application for access).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

LICENSING ACT 2003
WE, HEMA MATTU of WARLEY NEWS 147 SALOP ROAD OLDBURY B68 9PT
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For the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, namely
MON - SUN 05:30- 11:00
Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to Trading Standards and Licensing, Homes and Communities Directorate, Sandwell Council House, Po Box 2372, Oldbury B69 3BS. Telephone 0121 569 6537, email: licensingteam@sandwell.gov.uk not later than 17th JAN 2014. A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
PMB Licensing
AUTHORISED AGENTS
DATED 20TH DEC 2013

LICENSING ACT 2003
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It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
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(Authorised Agents)
Dated 21th DEC 2013

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NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

HI I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259**

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere, ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 408297**

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTM loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419**

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1952 Box No: 366019**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no ties. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel: No. 0905 002 1953 Box No: 407321**

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285**

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615**

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

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CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449**

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves eves in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021**

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**

HI I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933**

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

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Men seeking women

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PETE 6ft 1ins, likes body building, kick boxing, seeks female for love and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409451**

MASON single parent, seeking female for no strings fun times, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409443**

MALE likes nights out, holidays, seeking nice female for friendship, fun and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409363**

GARY 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207**

SINGLE white 40's male, looking for strictly no strings adult fun, any age/race/looks, genuine callers. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409613**

LOCAL businessman, seeking special friend for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409585**

SAM seeking lovely lady for great times likes sports, good standard of living, looking for some fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409527**

ATTRACTIVE male, 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, loving, genuine, seeks attractive female, single mum welcome, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409471**

GENT 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

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LONELY male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

MARK 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**

GENEROUS male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019**

TONY 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989**

FUN loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159**

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Title hope as deals done with top racers

GINETTA GT5 Challenge race winner George Gamble and fellow category front-runner Callum Pointon will remain with Total Control Racing for the 2014 season as the Wednesbury squad mounts a championship bid.

Having established itself as a front-running force in the Avon Tyres British GT Championship support series over the past couple of seasons, TCR is delighted to have agreed fresh deals with the talented pairing and team boss Lee Brookes is confident of challenging for the title.

"We're delighted to have both George and Callum on board again, it's a fantastic way to start 2014 for TCR", said Brookes

"Callum really came on strong last season, he did a fantastic job in his first year and improved massively to become a really consistent front-runner."

Gamble, formerly a leading light in the Ginetta Junior Championship and a front-runner in the Protyre Formula Renault Winter Series in 2012, made a return to competitive action with TCR last October.

Jacobs is now at the right place

MICHAEL JACOBS completed his permanent move to Wolves, declaring: "This is the place to be."

The Derby winger signed a two-and-a-half year deal for a fee rising to £200,000 – a bargain price for a player whose football has been one of the highlights of the campaign so far for supporters.

The 22-year-old arrives believing a new era is upon Wolves.

"They were good times at Derby and I will miss a lot of the people there," he said. "But I think it is the right time in my career to take on a new challenge at Wolves. I think it is the place to be.

"There is a lot of hard work to be done, but I think at a club like Wolves if you can get up once there is the potential to go again.

"Promotion has to be our main objective this season and anything else would be a major disappointment."

Head coach Kenny Jackett believes that his latest signing is a talent who can fulfil his potential at Molineux.

Gabby's single strike stops Black Cats

Sunderland 0 Villa 1

GABBY AGBONLAHOR – Villa's most experienced Premier League player – struck the winner, just as he did on this ground last season.

A gritty, determined and deserved victory owed much to a comedy of errors, a clinical finish and concentration.

Sunderland, who remain bottom of the Premier League, shot themselves in the foot by gifting Villa a winner.

Lee Cattermole's shocking lack of control to hand Agbonlahor Villa's goal ended the claret and blues' winless streak at the sixth attempt. The Black Cats' attempts to salvage the situation saw bags of effort, but little quality – just one of their 17 shots found the target.

Plenty of possession pinned Villa back at times, Emanuele Giaccherini was denied by the linesman's flag and Steven Fletcher toiled away, but it wasn't enough.

Last season Villa would have buckled and while the hosts were never blowing the door down, there was enough pressure to ensure the visitors needed to maintain their resolve.

Football

The experience gained from last term's struggles gave them the fortitude not to falter and cave as Ashley Westwood and Fabian Delph protected the back four immaculately.

Villa were a constant threat on the break with Christian Benteke, Marc Albrighton and Delph wasting fine chances to add gloss to the scoreline.

Victory came at a price, though, with Ron Vlaar limping out of his comeback game after six matches away. The skipper suffered a reoccurrence of the calf problem which had kept him sidelined over Christmas and faces an anxious wait to discover the severity of the injury.

Vlaar is integral to the team and it was no coincidence they failed to win any of the five games he sat out.

That Villa handled the blow with minimum fuss was credit to them as, without the suspended Ciaran Clark, Matt Lowton slipped into the centre. But defensive reinforcements are needed.

Up front, Benteke returned and almost ended his goal drought – which now stretches to 11 games – only for Phil Bardsley to clear off the line.

But Benteke was overshadowed by Agbonlahor as he ran Sunderland ragged, the Black Cats perpetually petrified by his pace.

It was just the striker's third goal of the season, but second in two games, and after 12 strikes last term it must prove the catalyst for more.

Agbonlahor, along with Andi Weimann, has yet to hit top form, but at the Stadium of Light he was back to his effervescent best.

Teenager Phillips to ride for the Heathens

TALENTED teenager Danny Phillips has joined Cradley Heath for his first full season of National League racing.

Phillips, aged 17, joins the reigning champions on a three-point average but impressed club bosses with his scores when riding as a guest for Mildenhall towards the end of last season.

He was wanted by a host of other clubs but pledged his immediate future to the Heathens and joins Paul Starke, Steve Worrall, Tom Perry and Max Clegg as a confirmed starter.

Heathens are also set to hold talks with Nathan Greaves who is wanted back for a second successive season and another new signing will be confirmed next week.

The Heathens are hosting another season ticket sales night on Thursday, January 23 at Cradley Heath Liberal Club.

Club officials will be there to meet supporters.

The club have also confirmed their 2014 season launch party with all the riders will be on Saturday, March 8, at Cradley Heath Liberal Club and tickets will go on sale soon.

Berahino comes on to win day for the Albion

Albion 1 Newcastle 0

KEITH DOWNING is the man who doesn't want the job but is right now closer to it than anyone else out there.

The assistant-manager is unbeaten in four games and has now landed the first win in 10 which has released so much of the steam building up around The Hawthorns.

It is no fluke. Albion are playing better – it's as simple and obvious as that. They look more organised, more settled, more certain and definitely more sure of themselves in this caretaker period during which supporters may well have spotted the distant influence of a certain former manager.

After their previous Hawthorns performance, outplayed by Hull in a scratchy 1-1 draw, the clamour for a swift replacement was inevitable; three games down the road and Downing's efforts have given Peace and his aides the chance to breathe.

The surprise switch to 5-3-2 for the two away games in the capita; the return of Anelka; the punt on Berahino at West Ham; the re-heat of a line-up his old mentor would have underscored; the bold decision to keep Morgan Amalfitano on the pitch as an emergency right-back after the loss of Billy Jones to injury.

These are big decisions and Downing is not baulking to make them.

Obviously, the 62nd minute red card for Mathieu Debuchy for a two-footed, studs-showing midfield lunge at Claudio Yacob, meant this reaped extra dividends but a bench which included only one specialist defender (Diego Lugano) reflects the positivity with which Downing has approached the task.

Football

Amalfitano went on to complete a man of the match performance which – in a summary of his afternoon – included setting up two excellent chances Nicolas Anelka and Liam Ridgewell couldn't convert before finishing with a perfectly-timed tackle on Hatem Ben Arfa to snuff out Newcastle's last attempt to rescue the game.

The one Downing decision Albion fans would probably dispute was the omission of Berahino from his starting XI but the club's wunderkind still found a way to make his presence felt with the match-winner.

There were also some big-hitters around him – Anelka and Chris Brunt – who are contenders to take a spot-kick, never got a look-in.

Berahino's body language as he seized the ball spoke volumes. The execution was

Alistair's cup of dreams come true for sleepover

A YOUNG Baggies fan from has become the first youngster in the country this season to win a sleep over with the FA Cup.

Alistair Worrall, aged seven, from Clayhanger, Walsall won the chance to spend the night with the famous trophy.

West Brom fan Alistair who goes to Holy Trinity CoE Primary School got to spend the night with the iconic cup after his parents entered him into The FA Cup Dreams competition on the official FA Cup Facebook page.

Generation

The scheme aims to introduce a new generation to the championship and give children a chance to make their football dreams come true.

Alistair's ecstatic father and Baggies fan Julian said: "What a fantastic surprise that really rounded off a brilliant Christmas for us.

"My wife saw the competition on The FA Cup Facebook page, she entered but never thought she would actually win.

"Having The FA Cup in our own home for the night was truly magical, a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we'll always remember, in particular Alistair who is just starting off his football journey."

Alistair Worrall who won the chance to have a sleepover with the FA Cup after his mother entered him in a competition

The FA Cup Dreams initiative was launched by FA Cup winner and England hero Michael Owen this season with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities such as winning a sleepover with the Cup, lifting the trophy in front of your own fans and meeting your footballing heroes available for under 12s from the Third Round to the Final. Families are encouraged to enter their children on the official FA Cup Facebook page,www.facebook.com/TheFACup.

Move on in Hennessey saga – Bully

STEVE BULL has urged Wolves to put the Wayne Hennessey saga behind them and focus on promotion – as he branded Karl Henry "stupid" for getting involved.

Keeper Hennessey's refusal to play against Gillingham on Friday and subsequent apology have been aggravated by the tweet from ex-captain Henry attacking head coach Kenny Jackett's role in the controversy.

Henry, now at Championship promotion challengers QPR, accused Jackett of treating the 26-year-old keeper "like s****".

But legend Bully is anxious the club move on.

"Wayne was guilty of stupidity and probably a little bit of immaturity," said Bull.

"You have got to play for the club paying your wages..

"Wayne got that wrong, but it's good he has realised it and apologised."

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SPORT

Cup of dreams
Alistair gets the first sleepover with trophy
Page 51

Sports Desk 01902 319531 e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Brace by Nisbett sees off rival side

Tipton 4 Kirby Muxloe 1

A BRACE by marksman Marvin Nisbett helped Tipton see off East Midlands outfit, Kirby Muxloe.

Tipton boss Ian Rowe welcomed back skipper Chris Waterhouse and Mike Perks.

The turning point of the match arrived on 15 minutes when Kirby skipper Anthony Marriott talked his way into a red card, leaving his team-mates to battle through with 10 men

The deadlock was broken on 35 minutes when Connor Gater nodded home Lee Wherton's corner.

Tipton's slender first half lead was doubled within two minutes of the restart when Nisbett reacted quickest from Danny Ashton's deflected pass to slot home.

Four minutes later Nisbett doubled his tally when he picked up the ball on the half-way line and fired past Elliot Shilliam.

The visitors grabbed one back almost immediately when Waterhouse and Gater got muddled up and allowed Brett Darby to loop in a shot over Pemberton's head.

But the three goal advantage was restored on 69 minutes through Jordan Archer.

The game won, Tipton replaced Waterhouse, Perks and Graham Ashton with Paul Henley, Justin Nixon and debutant Mark Ganderton, a graduate of the Tipton Youth programme.

Albion eye on Gardner

ALBION are again keeping tabs on Sunderland midfielder Craig Gardner while interest in unsettled striker Shane Long looks set to increase this month.

The Baggies' new head coach will walk into the middle of a January transfer window with the futures of several current Hawthorns players uncertain. He might be asked to make a decision on Gardner, who, sources in the north east claim, could leave the Stadium of Light for a reduced fee.

The former Villa and Birmingham midfielder is a long-standing target for the Baggies. They have continued to monitor the Birmingham-born player's progress and could make a move to sign him on a free transfer when his Black Cats contract expires in the summer.

It is believed the Wearside club might be tempted to cash in this month to recoup some of the money they paid.

Missed chances but powerful pack dominate

Rugby

Eccleshall 14 Wednesbury 18

WEDNESBURY'S front row was boosted by the return of Jody Lane from Walsall RUFC which gave their pack a much-needed injection of strength and power.

They started the game well, their pack dominating the scrum and lineout, but still wasted two early chances of tries from lineout's near to the Eccleshall try line. However with this domination something had to give, Wednesbury were awarded a penalty superbly kicked by Tom Huggins.

Wednesbury's advantage in the scrum paid off, they were awarded a scrum close to the Eccleshall try line. They drove the home side backwards, Mike Chivers picked up the ball from the base of the scrum with the help of John Mcgregor and drove over for their first try but there was no conversion.

At this point Eccleshall started to get into the game, their only chance of the half, Matt Dale running back to deny the Eccleshall winger the opportunity of a try.

In the second half Wednesbury carried on their domination and were soon making it pay. They pushed the home side back over their try line only for the referee to say the ball had not been grounded. Eccleshall made Wednesbury pay for not taking their opportunities soon afterwards, breaking away to score a try and conversion.

Dale Doughty made the score look more respectable, receiving the ball he went on a rampaging run with four Eccleshall players hanging on to him he managed to force himself over the line, Tom Huggins added the conversion.

Wednesbury's backs were all over their opponents but could not find their way through the Eccleshall defence, however the home side gave away another penalty.

Tom Huggins stepped up to kick the points to increase Wednesbury's lead. The visitors then became complacent allowing Eccleshall to score their second converted try. This makes it three wins from four games since the return of captain John Mcgregor to the Wednesbury fold.

Coach Tom Huggins said after the match it had been an outstanding display from Wednebury and as such the usual man-of-the-match award would have to be a team award not an individual.

This week Wednesbury entertain Edwardians, kick off 2.15pm.

LITTLE POWER AND NO GLORY IN CUP

Albion 0 Crystal Palace 2

Football

THERE will be no 60th anniversary glory to honour Albion's 1954 'Team of the Century'.

The Baggies' 1968 FA Cup heroes will remain the club's last serious trophy winners for another year at least while the supporters' wait for a major final appearance will extend to 45 years at best.

And it is hard to believe any Albion team in the last four-and-a-half decades has surrendered a place in a winnable competition quite as meekly as the class of 2014 did on Saturday.

Amid the uncertainty of a managerial vacuum and the worry of a struggling Premier League campaign, the Baggies had the chance to deliver some light relief in a competition that defines their history more than any other.

Opportunity

They tossed away the opportunity and exited at the first hurdle with barely more than a whimper. While across the country the FA Cup threw up an encouraging number of charming stories, third-round day at The Hawthorns was a depressing experience.

A dismal game was won by the least poor of two below-par teams as the Baggies simply went through the motions and slumped out of the Cup in the most low-key fashion imaginable.

It was a sad spectacle in a competition they have won on five occasions and contested in the final on five more. The FA Cup no longer holds its place at the pinnacle of the English game and cannot come close to competing with the Premier League for providing clubs with riches from media deals.

On Saturday, as an ugly Palace side walked away with the most routine of victories, it became little more than an optional extra for a Baggies side lacking intensity and drive.

Albion might have led in the early stages when Zoltan Gera found space on the right from which to cross but Saido Berahino, who looked frustrated in a wide-left role, sent a volley over the bar.

A horrible pass from Goran Popov – that summed up another poor day for the Macedonian in an Albion shirt – was picked up by Hiram Boateng. He fed Gayle, whose scuffed shot wrong-footed Ben Foster and crept into the bottom corner.

Gera's volley in stoppage-time was deflected narrowly past the post but by then many of the 12,700 fans had departed. There were fewer still remaining when Palace broke through thanks to Marouane Chamakh who scored a simple second goal with the final kick.

And there was barely enough heart left in the crowd to muster boos.

Zoltan Gera struggles to impose himself on the game. *Pictures: Tim Thursfield*

Schaaf is favourite as coach

ALBION powerbrokers have been holding a final round of talks to decide on their new head coach with German Thomas Schaaf emerging as favourite.

Schaaf, who is believed to have been sounded out again on Tuesday was reinstalled as a clear bookmaker's choice after talks went late into the night.

Spaniard Quique Flores was also being considered, although compensation is a possible stumbling block.

Former West Ham and Watford chief Gianfranco Zola is not a contender despite sources at the club speaking of more talks – claims the Italian's camp denied.

The club's five-man selection committee held final discussions on Tuesday at the club's London offices in a bid to settle on their preferred candidate. In those talks Flores and Schaaf are thought to have figured prominently.

Flores, who managed Valencia, Benfica and Atletico Madrid with success, boasts the most impressive CV of the known candidates but is currently employed by Al Ain in Abu Dhabi, meaning compensation would be required.

Hennessey says sorry over Gills

WAYNE HENNESSEY has apologised for refusing to play at Gillingham as Crystal Palace and West Ham emerged as front-runners to sign the £2m-rated goalkeeper.

Boss Kenny Jackett revealed the Wales No.1 had said sorry on Monday morning after asking not to play against the Gills, and he will now be available to face Preston on Saturday.

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